

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 34 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 12 february, 2004



DON'T MOVE YOUR LEG, BUDDY Think you can compete for impurity points with this guy? Turn to page 13 and take our annual purity test to find out.

Edmonton youth crime program first in the world

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

When Jasmina Sumanac arrived in Edmonton as a refugee from Serbia in 1999, she wanted to find a way to deal with issues of racism and hate without the violence she had witnessed in her home country.

The result of her dream is Edmonton's Youth Restorative Action Project (YRAP), a program that allows the sentences of young offenders to be decided by a panel of youths. The first project of its kind in the world, YRAP was formed in March of 2001 with the support of Alberta's Youth Criminal Defence Office (YCDO), Edmonton's iHuman Youth Society, and University of Alberta campus radio station CJSR. YRAP was sanctioned by the provincial government on 12 May, 2003.

The first coordinator of YRAP, a 16-year-old homeless aboriginal girl, expanded Sumanac's vision of the program to deal with youth whose crimes are a result of their economic and social backgrounds.

PLEASE SEE YRAP • PAGE 2

U of A facing \$28 million budgetary shortfall

JAKE TROUGHTON
News Writer

With the U of A facing a \$28 million budget shortfall, the administration and the Students' Union are worried that quality of education will suffer without an increase in provincial funding to the University.

According to U of A Provost Carl Amrhein, despite last month's decision by the Board of Governors to increase tuition by 5.3 per cent, the University still finds itself unable to keep pace with rising natural gas prices, a \$6 million pension fund shortfall and a provincial operating grant that's rising at less than the inflation rate.

Amrhein stressed that the University's budget isn't actually decreasing. The problem, he says, is simply that it's not increasing as fast as it should be.

"We can't call it a budget cut, because the budget's not getting smaller," he said. "It's a revenue gap."

He admits that one way the University will try to shrink the gap is by increasing revenue from parking and other services. The administration is hoping to generate about \$6.5 million, or two per cent of the overall budget, through increased fees.

"Someone has to pay that, so that's not going to be met with great enthusiasm, but there's all kinds of things that we charge user fees for," he said. "We'll try to come up with a business-based argument for the fees and levies that we assess, so that people feel comfortable they're paying a fair price."

"We can't call it a budget cut, because the budget's not getting smaller. It's a revenue gap."

CARL AMRHEIN,
U OF A PROVOST

But Amrhein said that while measures like this will help in the short term, only an increase in funding from the Alberta provincial government will prevent similar shortfalls in the future. Following Premier Ralph Klein's annual address last week, Amrhein expressed hope that the government can be persuaded of the importance of postsecondary spending.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET • PAGE 5

Stats and dentistry courses to be offered online

TONY SANTIN
News Writer

Two departments at the University of Alberta now have the means to bring lessons outside the classroom, thanks to a grant from the provincial government's Access Fund.

The Access Fund is a new initiative that will see \$5.7 million given to postsecondary institutions across the province to create or enhance existing online programs and learning resources.

"Additional funding for these programs is not only enhancing access to postsecondary education; these innovative projects are changing the way we will continue to provide higher learning in the future," said Ian McClelland, MLA for Edmonton-Rutherford in a press release issued by the provincial government.

Over the current academic year, the provincial government has distributed over \$40 million from the Access Fund, with \$25 million coming from Alberta Learning and \$15 million from Alberta Health and Wellness.

The funding has gone to various postsecondary institutions with the intent of creating more access to health-related fields of study across the province.

PLEASE SEE COURSES • PAGE 4



Sharon Compton and assistant prof Sandy Cobban from dental hygiene.



6 if you're looking for something to do with your sweetie this Valentine's day you'll want to check out today's A&E section for the low-down on the latest movies, music and theatre in town.

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Outside

Thursday Sunny oh yes, they call him the Streak! High 7, we miss you, lows! **Friday** Sun and cloud, fastest thing on two feet: High -1, Low -3 **Saturday** Flurries, he's just as proud as he can be: High -2, Low -11 **Sunday** Sunny, he goin' give us a peek! High 4, Low -5
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

The future of the faculty of dentistry was at stake after a U of A document was released calling for the faculty to be closed by the 1997/98 school year. The closure would mean no dentistry school in Alberta. The University president, Paul Davenport, suggested the U of A buy spots in other dentistry schools in western Canada just as the University of Saskatchewan does with Occupational Therapy at the U of A. Davenport asserted that the faculty was not a leader in Canada. However, in 1992 he had stated the school was the finest in the country. To fight the suggested closure, the dean of dentistry planned to have an extensive lobbying campaign of both the administration and the provincial government.

1994



27 The Comics section is in glorious colour, right on time for Space Cat's Tenth Anniversary. What has the Cat been up to all this time? Look your fingers and flip pages, y'all.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 12 february, 2004
volume XCII number 34

Published since 21 November, 1990
Circulation 10000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journal Society (GSSJ), a student-run, autonomous, non-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3C and Linux Astra 4000 flatbed scanners, and a Canon CanoScan F4000 optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to go to the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights. Offence, Kasper, Joanna, and Avenia. The Gateway's genres of fiction are DVO and Science Fiction.

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Innovative sentencing process positive for young offenders

YRAP - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The crimes dealt with today by YRAP include serious issues like sexual assault, armed robbery, break and enter, arson, child prostitution, and severe addictions.

According to Mark Cherrington, a youth court worker with YCDO and producer of CJRS's young offender program, Youth Menace, the only criteria for involvement with YRAP is a "fundamental belief in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

"This allows young people who would normally be shunned away by more traditional organizations," he explained. "For example, we're the only justice committee in Canada that has had serving prisoners sit on the panels."

The 40 youth, currently involved in YRAP range from U of A students to ex-offenders, and are aged 15-24. Although the sentences devised by the panels have to be ratified by a judge, they're rarely changed.

"Sentences are always respected by the courts," said Cherrington. "They may get tweaked a bit, but they're never changed in any significant manner."

Many of the sentences devised at YRAP are directly related to the crime. According to Cherrington, the thought that goes into the sentencing process makes the offenders' experiences "a

lot more positive than you would find in a traditional courthouse."

Some of the more innovative sentences include a young man who had to write a hip hop song on racism for CJRS, and a 13-year-old girl, convicted of sexual assault, who had to work with Alberta Hospital to develop an information pamphlet on issues surrounding sexual abuse.

According to YRAP coordinator Christine Jalrantsing, most young offenders see the process as a very positive one. "When we deal with first offenders who aren't ingrained in the system yet, they come, they talk about their offence, and we come up with something that's suited to their needs. More than likely, they won't re-offend," she said.

"For people who have been involved in the system for quite a while, they tend to appreciate YRAP because it's very different and it's very personalized."

Often, offenders will get the chance to interact with the victim of their crime. "For a lot of individuals who are stuck in certain situations or environments growing up, they tend to have a harsher view of things," explained Jalrantsing. "But when you have the victim sitting right in front of you, it's very hard to separate yourself from them emotionally and personally."

student. He was trespassed and escorted from U of A property.

BUSY NIGHT AT THE PLANT

On 5 February at about 11:00pm, officers responded to a call of a fight at the Powerplant. One male had been ejected, and one remained bleeding in the bar. Both were quickly located and identified, and neither was a student. The bleeder had an outstanding warrant with EPS and was handed over to city constables, and the ejected fighter was trespassed and sent off campus.

About two hours later, officers were called back to the bar, where a male had been ejected and a bouncer injured in the altercation. The bouncer was escorted to U of A Hospital with nose and elbow injuries. The accused was identified as a U of A student, and was found to have a warrant with city police for fighting in public. He also received minor nose injuries, but refused escort to the hospital, and neither party pressed charges. The student was handed over to city authorities for the outstanding warrant, and charges are pending under the Code of Student Behavior.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by **Barrie Tanner**
(btanner@ualberta.ca)

STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERED

A student recognized the description of a vehicle stolen from just south of the Powerplant from a recent Crime Beat entry and reported to 50 the location of the vehicle, which was parked on 109 Street and 83 Avenue. Officers attended, confirmed it was the car, and EPS was called for further investigation. Thanks to this attentive Gateway reader, the car was recovered.

SUSPICIONS CONFIRMED

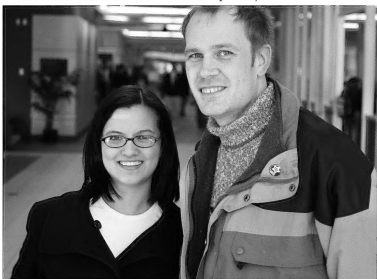
On a February 4 at about 12:20 in the afternoon, Constables received a call of a suspicious male parading in Education North. Officers arrived and located the man in the cafeteria, identified him and found he had a criminal record, was very recently accused of assault, and was not a

"Melissa," an ex-young offender who now volunteers for YRAP, said the makeup of the panels is part of what makes the program so beneficial. "All my life I've been in their position with other people sentencing me, so now I get to see the side of it and find ways other than jail to deter them and get them on a better path," she said. "I'm very familiar with lots of the things we talk about because I've been there. Often I tell them things that I've done that have helped me."

Out of the 32 referrals YRAP has had

since May, only two have re-offended.

Cherrington agreed that the methods used by YRAP are far more effective than traditional sentencing methods. "There's no shortage of toilet bowls to clean out, but after a while you're just shovelling shit," said Cherrington. "And if you're in this process, you're looking at the systemic issues that got you into conflict with the law, you're utilizing your positives and your strengths to repair the harm, and you've given an opportunity to be the best person you can."



REFORMING YOUTH Mark Cherrington with panel member Jenn Allport.

About an hour and a half later, a female bouncer at the Powerplant found an extremely intoxicated female student passed out in a bathroom stall. The student was identified by officers and escorted to her residence, where she was placed in the care of a sober resident.

ONE STEP OFF

At about 2:45am on 7 February, officers received a call for First Aid Transport after a student cut open his forehead running into a doorframe while intoxicated. He was taken from his residence to U of A Emergency.

JUST WHEN HE WAS GETTING SOME SLEEP

On 8 February at about 8pm, a University staff member called 5-0 to report a man sleeping in the lobby of Biological Sciences, and that he had been there since 3pm. Constables arrived and identified the man, who was not a student and had been to the library in methamphetamine addict. He was trespassed and driven to the Herb Jamieson Center downtown.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, WEIRD?

On 10 February at about 10am, a student reported an unknown male entered a classroom in V-Wing and uttered derogatory remarks to nearby female students before leaving the area. Officers arrived and conducted a thorough search of the vicinity, but the suspect was not located. He is described as Caucasian, about 50 years of age, 5'10" with a small build, gray hair, large glasses with a green and black jacket. If you see any similar suspicious activity, contact 5-0 as soon as possible at 492-9505.

HEADS UP, EYES PEELED

There have been a host of thefts from people leaving their belongings unattended while they use facilities. This has occurred in libraries, study areas and offices alike. Thieves will case out an area until they see someone leave for a few moments, then grab the goods and quickly leave. Campus Security advises students and staff to pay attention to who is in the area, not to leave their belongings unattended or doors unsecured, and to report any suspicious people or activity as soon as possible.

STREETERS

Check out the Gateway's annual purity test on page 13.

What's the most impure thing you've ever done?



Heather McMahon
Science III



Bill Fisher
Arts II



Melo Pal
Biological Sciences III



Lucas Anders
Education II

The worst thing I ever did was get drunk with a bunch of guys from work and run around in my underwear. My boss is a bit of an alcoholic and he's quite wealthy. He would take us the bar and get us absolutely annihilated, and this one time we took off and went skinny dipping.

I stole a four-foot tall wooden leprechaun from a bar in Montana. We were shifed, and saw this leprechaun bolted to the wall. I got my friends to start a fight while we and my other buddy unscrewed it. We had to book it all the way across the city of Missoula back to our hotel room after they found out.

How about driving drunk while smoking a joint? There was a three of us, sitting in the car, and my friend pulled out a joint, and we were all drunk, driving home from a small bar in Lethbridge. I've been pulled over very drunk; I don't know what the cops would do about the smoking though.

This lady came up to my car and asked me to give her a ride because her daughter was pregnant. So I gave her a ride to Manning Crossing and dropped her off. When I went home, there was a police car waiting at my door. The police told me she was a prostitute; they thought I was a john.

Compiled and photographed by Ross Moroz and Dave Berry

U of A music chair inducted into Order of Canada

A profile on award-winning choir director Dr Leonard Ratzlaff



CONDUCTING WHILE HE TALKS Order of Canada inductee and U of A chair of music Dr Leonard Ratzlaff. CARY WILLIAMS

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

A black grand piano takes up more than a third of Dr Leonard Ratzlaff's office, dwarfing his desk and filling cabinet. Ratzlaff, the chair of the U of A music department smiles and leans back in his chair comfortably.

Ratzlaff must have a busy schedule these days as the conductor of both the Madrigal and Richard Eaton singers, chair of the department and a professor of music.

Recently named a member of the Order of Canada at the end of January, the award is Ratzlaff's third recognition in the last year for his contribution to the Canadian music world.

Previously, Ratzlaff was awarded the Alberta Order of Excellence in October and the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in March of last year. But despite this acclaim, he describes the Order of Canada as quite a surprise.

"There was a registered letter waiting for me, but I thought it was a credit card, so I waited a couple of days. I thought, 'ah, I'll just pick it up on a Saturday when the post office is open at the drugstore,'" he explains. "And when I opened up the envelope it was like, 'whoa, really? Okay!'"

While those who nominated him for the Alberta Order of Excellence joked to Ratzlaff that the Order of Canada would be the next "step" in his career achievements, he scoffed at the suggestion, not suspecting that they had nominated him for the prize.

The scheming nominators are members of the Richard Eaton Singers, a choir which Ratzlaff has conducted since 1981, when he began to teach at the U of A follow-

ing the completion of his formal musical education at the University of Winnipeg.

Raised a Mennonite, Ratzlaff's interest in music was strongly influenced by the choral tradition of the faith. Music is deeply rooted in the faith's history, Ratzlaff explains.

The Mennonite church emerged around the same time as the Lutheran reformation, both faiths rejecting the rituals of the Catholic Church, he said.

"Everything's been kind of a surprise. And, well, I think it's got to stop now... I appreciate the honours, of course, but it's time to start honouring other people."

**DR LEONARD RATZLAFF,
U OF A MUSIC CHAIR**

"But [the Mennonites] went a few steps further than the Lutherans in terms of rejecting the formalities of the Catholic Church. One of the things they decided was that they didn't want to have any instruments in the church at all. If you sang, the Good Lord would hear, and nothing more," Ratzlaff explains.

"It became very much a vocal tradition and by extension a choral tradition, so that hymns that were sung in church were usually sung in parts, in harmony, at least in my particular tradition of the Mennonite church. So we learned to sing in soprano, alto, tenor, bass—and that's like a choir, essentially. I grew up with that."

Ratzlaff stresses the importance of

musical interpretation to the art of conducting, emphasizing the value of his training in English literature to musical interpretation.

"For me, as a choral conductor and a musician who works a lot with choirs, it has a lot to do with texts. And so literature is really important to me as a conductor, because it helps me to put texts into context and also to interpret them the way the composer may have wanted it to be heard," Ratzlaff says.

"There might be different ways of interpreting it, and without my literature training I don't think I would be as good at that kind of thing. And of course, Shakespeare wrote a lot of texts that are set to music. We just finished recording one recently, in fact—one of his sonnets."

However, leadership skills in conducting are paramount, in Ratzlaff's view, and in this respect conducting offers many challenges.

"How do you relate to people during a music rehearsal, how do you convey what you want from the music and try to convince the singers that that was what the music was calling for, yet not browbeat them into submission, so to speak? How do you inspire to do what's in the music?"

Satisfied by his recent awards, Ratzlaff described his career goals as being a matter of exploring new music, both western and non-western, and perhaps re-exploring pieces he has previously studied and conducted.

"Everything's been kind of a surprise. And, well, I think it's got to stop now. It's been too many things and it's enough. I appreciate the honours, of course, but it's time to start honouring other people. There's a lot of good people in the field that I'm in now," he laughs.

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Campus Sustainability.

What is it and Why?

A university campus is a microcosm of Canadian city living and as such, the UofA campus is contributing to the global environmental crisis. Universities have the responsibility to be leaders in innovation, research, education and community capacity building to meet current and future challenges.

What could the UofA be doing that other universities have already begun?

- Establish an institutional commitment to sustainability
- Integrate an interdisciplinary approach to sustainability within every faculty
- Support the development of the UofA Campus Sustainability Office
- Provide course/research credit for students working on campus greening projects
- Conduct a campus-wide sustainability assessment and submit a report to all stakeholders, campus and community-wide.

A Green Campus is an 'indisputably recognized' campus.



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Registration on Bear Tracks begins

February 13, 2004 at 6:00 AM



New online programs to offset teaching shortages

COURTESY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Here at the U of A, this has manifested itself in \$94 000 being given to the department of mathematical and statistical sciences, and almost \$300 000 going toward the dental hygiene program. While the new funding comes as something of a surprise for both departments, it is nonetheless being given in the spirit in which it was given.

"Right now, we are seeing between 1200 to 1500 students each semester taking our introductory stats courses, and this is making it difficult for students to find available space in the labs to do their work," said Ivan Baggs, associate chair of the mathematical and statistical sciences department.

In addition to alleviating the congestion experienced in the labs, Dr Baggs also sees online development as a means reducing problems associated with finding qualified staff to teach the labs.

"We have always had problems with finding the people, such as teaching assistants, who can staff these labs when we need them to," said Baggs. "But with the new program, this will lighten our burden considerably." He also expects that enrolment will rise with the greater availability and flexibility with the new program will offer. The new statistics online program is expected to be running by fall 2005.

In the dental hygiene program, the new funds will build on a pre-existing online program that has been in place since 2000.

"Currently, we have only 15 students participating in our online program, and of them, they are mainly part-time," said Sharon Compton,

director of the program. "But with this new funding, we will definitely be breaking down the barriers to greater access."

Problems with access to courses have definitely been felt over the years. "A major problem has been that Edmonton has one of the only dental hygiene schools in the province, which makes it very difficult for people from more distant communities," said Compton.

"We have always had problems with finding the people ... who can staff these labs when we need them to. But with the new program, this will lighten our burden considerably."

**IVAN BAGGS,
ASSOCIATE CHAIR,
DEPARTMENT OF MATH AND
STATISTICS**

Gender also plays a role in determining access. "This department is 99 per cent female, many part-time because of their families. Now, say if someone who wanted to be a student lived in Fort MacMurray and has two children to take care of, it doesn't make things very practical for them."

The dental hygiene online program focuses on courses required for degree completion, many of which examine the more theoretical aspects of the field.

U of A student receives litany of awards for research

A profile on student and renowned scoliosis researcher Talib Rajwani

**PAUL KNOEHEL
News Writer**

U of A radiology student Talib Rajwani can now add yet another award to his long list of accomplishments.

Already the owner of an impressive collection of awards for his research at age 24, Rajwani was most recently awarded the Lionel E McLeod Health Research Scholarship, which includes \$7600 to support his work.

This honour is a result of Rajwani's research on scoliosis, a spinal disorder affecting approximately three per cent of adolescents aged eleven to 17, and it is far from the only recognition he has received. Other accolades include awards and scholarships from the Society of Pediatric Radiology and the Canadian Orthopedic Association, a University of Alberta Alumni Association Leadership Award, and an Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Leader of Tomorrow Award.

Scoliosis causes irregular growth of the spine, and little is known about it. In fact, 80 per cent of cases result from unknown circumstances. But Talib is hoping to change that.

"One of the things we are trying to do is recreate the way scoliosis is currently approached. If scoliosis remains approached in the same manner it has been in the past, then I suspect that 50 years down the road we won't be any closer to having a cure," he explains.

Talib has already started changing attitudes with his work. Through research with animal and computer models, he is attempting to isolate particular causes of scoliosis is known

around the globe. His research also integrates many different fields, including pediatrics, radiology and physiology.

Despite all the attention he has received for his work, including over half a dozen interviews in recent months, Rajwani remains modest, claiming he doesn't "really feel sought after."

He is still highly appreciative of all the help and guidance he has received, not only in his research, but ever since he started in the general sciences program as an undergraduate at the U of A.

It is, in part, because of this guidance that he feels he should help guide others around him. "I think I have a responsibility to give something back to other individuals," says Rajwani.

And Rajwani is certainly giving back. He helps to judge debate competitions in his free time at the junior high and high school level. He speaks passionately of debate, having gotten into it ten years ago, and encourages

others to try it, describing debate as something "you discover you love, not simply pick out."

As if he hasn't already accomplished enough, Rajwani was approached by the Harvard medical school several years ago to be one of 16 students in North America who got to travel to India and help educate locals about HIV, as well as establish an infrastructure to deal with HIV infections. When asked about this, Rajwani retains his modesty, claiming he believes he was approached when Americans filled 15 of the spots and the organizers felt compelled to include a Canadian student.

Despite balancing a demanding program of study with numerous volunteer commitments, Talib still finds time to hang out with his friends on weekends. He offers this wisdom to other driven workers: "I think everyone needs time to recharge and relax, and I find that in the long run it makes you more productive, and definitely more happy."



BREAKING BOUNDARIES U of A radiology student Talib Rajwani.

Different Nights Different Tastes

**Thursday
Ship Night**

**feb 12th
Honky Tonk Cowgirl/
Cowboy Night**

Friday

**Student
Appreciation Night
Top 40's DJ**

Saturday

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The Powerplant is a service of Your Students' Union for UofA Students, staff, alumni, and their guests.

U of A research tests insulin resistance through breath

SARAH HANASYK
News Writer

Recent research at the University of Alberta has made it possible for insulin resistance, a disorder that causes diabetes, to be detected using a simple breath test.

The study is headed by Dr Richard Lewanczuk, director of endocrinology and metabolism in the faculty of medicine. The goal of the study was to simplify the test normally used to discover insulin resistance, currently a time- and labor-intensive procedure involving intravenous monitoring for up to six hours at a time.

Insulin resistance involves the inability of the cells to use insulin properly and has been linked to Type II diabetes, obesity, polycystic ovarian syndrome and many cardiovascular diseases. Insulin is the main hormone required to metabolize glucose for energy.

With the new breath test, patients simply blow through a standard juice straw into a tube after consuming a known amount of labeled glucose mixture. The difference between the amount of carbon dioxide, a byproduct of glucose breakdown, in the breath before and after glucose consumption is a highly reliable indication of insulin resistance in the patient, said Lewanczuk.

"We thought if we gave [the patient] a labeled glucose we could measure, then we could measure the carbon dioxide coming out in the breath, and the rate of carbon dioxide we felt would be proportionate to how quickly the glucose was going into the cells, which was then dependant on how sensitive or resistant the cells were to insulin," explained Lewanczuk.

"It's a really simple concept, and I'm surprised nobody has looked at it further," said Lewanczuk. The test has already been approved by Health Canada, but is still undergoing final approval for sale to the public. Because of its simplicity, the test can be performed at home and sent through the mail for processing.



LAUREN JENNINGS

U of A director of endocrinology and metabolism Dr Richard Lewanczuk.

To learn more about rates of insulin resistance for the study, further research is being conducted in the Blackfalds area of rural Alberta with children, assessing insulin resistance as related to height, weight, and activity levels.

"It's a really simple concept, and I'm surprised no one has looked at it further."

DR RICHARD LEWANCZUK,
DIRECTOR OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND
METABOLISM, FACULTY OF MEDICINE

"We have little data on children in terms of what their current cardiovascular metabolic health is. We're picking up children, say five years old, who have insulin resistance and even Type II diabetes," said Lewanczuk.

Before this, the largest insulin resistance study involving children used

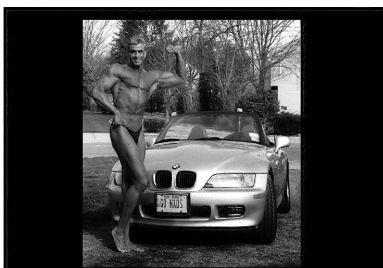
only 200 subjects. This current study will be five times that size and encompass other cardiovascular diseases and their relation to various health-related issues.

According to Lewanczuk, insulin resistance affects obesity rates in the population. The principles of the popular low-carbohydrate Atkins diet are based somewhat on the mechanics of insulin uptake in carbohydrate metabolism.

High carbohydrate intake stimulates insulin release, leading to a vicious circle: people who are insulin resistant tend to crave the foods that make them that way in the first place because of low blood sugar.

"Losing weight through a low carbohydrate diet seems to have, in some studies, a major benefit," said Lewanczuk.

Simple ways to reduce or prevent insulin resistance include increasing fibre and reducing carbohydrate intake, as well as maintaining a regular schedule of exercise and activity.



How did this guy get to be this awesome, you may ask? Well, the answer is obvious. He wrote for Gateway news. Those of us who have already figured out the secret to eternal radness are well on our way to being muscle-bound hunks with BMWs and vanity plates. But you're not. So drop an e-mail to news@gatewayualberta.ca and join us.

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SU fears U of A has reached 'breaking' point

BUDGET • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We hope that we can convince the government that we are not an expense like road maintenance, that we're an investment in Alberta's future," he said. "The Premier said lots of good things [last week] that support this argument, and we're not going to be very long in taking advantage of what he said."

Despite Premier Klein's statements, SU President Mat Brechtel said quality of education at the University has already been slipping in recent years, and the SU is worried that the current budget will harm the quality even more.

"We're a little frightened," he said. "As the University is being squeezed harder and harder, there's less to squeeze. Now we're squeezed too hard and just started breaking. We've lost a reading room from political science, for example, and that's fairly core to a department."

Dean of Science Greg Taylor wouldn't speculate on the effect that the revenue gap might have on his department. But he did suggest that maintaining quality of education has become more difficult in recent years.

We strive very hard in science to protect the laboratory experience and the field environment experience, and it's very difficult for us to do that with budgets declining," he said. "We haven't experienced huge cutbacks in the number of labs we conduct, but we've had to trim away



WILL CHEN

U of A Provost Carl Amrhein discusses the University's budget woes.

other budget lines in order to maintain that experience."

"As the University is being squeezed harder and harder, there's less to squeeze. Now we're squeezed too hard and just started breaking."

MAT BRECHTEL,
SU PRESIDENT

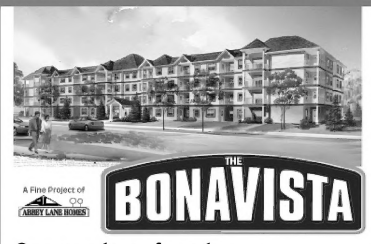
Amrhein shared concerns that the funding troubles could hurt quality of education, particularly by necessitating larger class sizes.

"We have fewer professors and more students; they're moving in opposite directions," he explained. "We're worried about the extent to which the classrooms here are properly staffed."

Brechtel argued that unless the provincial government demonstrates a much greater financial commitment to postsecondary education than it has in recent years, trends like this will only continue in the future at the U of A, and he finds this a worrying prospect.

"The learning environment's probably going to continue to suffer because the provincial government is continuing to do the same thing it's done for 20 years."

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STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

FEBRUARY 12 2004

YOU ARE A BUSINESS OWNER

As elections are about to start here at the Students' Union you are likely going to hear a lot about what the Students' Union does (as well as a lot about what it should be doing and what it should stop doing). What many students don't realize is that the Students' Union and all students by extension are business owners. Owners of nine businesses to be accurate.

Before you run off and add "Business Owner" to your resume, it might help to know a bit about your enterprises. Also, take note that the revenue raised from these businesses go to support SU services for students. Read on and learn.



With an indoor seating capacity of 450, and a patio seating another 90, the Powerplant Restaurant & Bar is the largest full-time licensed facility on campus. Sporting a large games room complete with pool tables and a variety of arcade games, the best breakfast deals on campus, a full menu all day, Ship Night every Thursday, dancing all night Friday, and hot local acts Saturday, the Powerplant has something for everyone. Find us right in the heart of campus just north of Dintistry-Pharmacy, open five days a week from 8am 'til the wee hours.



The highest campus bar in the country, Room at the Top (RATT) can be found on the 7th floor of the Students' Union Building, giving one of the best panoramic views of Edmonton you can find. Featuring a fully stocked bar and solid menu, RATT is the perfect place on campus to stop in for a quick lunch or drink any afternoon or evening. With a big screen and multiple televisions throughout the room, RATT is also a great place to catch Oilers matches and other big sporting events.



The Students' Union Print Centre can meet all of your printing needs; anything from cheap black/white and full colour photocopying to producing documents from a wide variety of media, no job is too big or too small. We also handle printing from the computer lab just down the hall in the basement of SUB.



The CUE is a great new way to procrastinate. The room holds ten standard pool tables that are rented by the hour. Located in the basement of SUB, you can come down and play pinball, air hockey, foosball and a bunch of the latest video games six days a week. With the addition of a University liquor license, it's a perfect location for group bookings, pool tournaments or parties.

SUBtitles

With one of the best year round textbook buy back and consignment programs in Canada, SUBtitles is the best place to handle your used book needs, and we're located right smack in the middle of the main floor of SUB. We also sell a variety of crested UoFA, Golden Bears & Pandas merchandise and can even line you up for customizing your own gear, from screenprinting and embroidery to imprinting virtually anything. Got a poster, picture or degree that needs framing? We can handle that too.

SUBmart

Need a one-stop place for what you need? Look no further than the main floor of SUB for the Students' Union's own convenience store, selling everything you might imagine: slurpees, candy, chips, pop, tobacco, gum, batteries, personal hygiene products and so much more. We also have a full-service lottery outlet and western union terminal for sending and receiving some extra cash.



From anywhere... to anyone

Located on the main floor of SUB, the Students' Union Postal Outlet provides full mail services to send any package anywhere, as well as courier services, mail-box rentals and Student Loans processing (part time/full time Canadian Student Loans and B.C. provincial loans).

L'EXPRESS

Located in the food court of SUB, L'Express has been serving up home style, healthy cooking since 1979. Offering a wide variety of homemade soups, garden fresh salads, great pastas, wraps and pitas along with some great daily breakfast and lunch specials, this is the perfect place to satisfy your hunger for all three meals in a day. We also have a spectacular catering menu for any size special event you might be holding.



Brand new to the SUB food court in 2003, Cram Dunk has the best donuts you can find on campus. We also have a variety of cookies, muffins and assorted pastries to hit your sweet spot. All of our coffee is fair trade and absolutely delicious, whether you drink it black or with a hefty helping of flavoured creamers. Early in the morning or during one of those late night study sessions, visiting us is bound to keep you awake.

YOUR 2003/2004 SU EXECUTIVE
492.4236

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 Vice-President Academic: **Janet Lo**
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 Vice-President Student Life: **Jadene Mah**
vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca

UPCOMING SU EVENTS:

- Feb 13: SU Elections**
 Nominations close @ 5pm
- Feb 14: Hard Rock Valentine's Day**
 w/ Rake, Portal and Superseed @ Powerplant
- Feb 14-22: Reading Week**
- Feb 21: Wheatmonkeys**
 w/ Koan and Cordoba @ Powerplant
- Feb 23: SU Elections**
 Campaign starts
- Feb 23: Movie Nights @ Dewey's**
 Oscar Night: Chicago & Beautiful Mind
- Feb 24: SU Elections**
 Election Forum, 5:00 PM @ Lister Hall
- Feb 25: SU Elections**
 Election Forum, 11:30 AM @ Faculte St Jean
- Feb 26: SU Elections**
 Election Forum, 12:30 PM @ SUB Stage
- Feb 27: SU Elections**
 Election Forum, 12pm @ SUB Stage
- Feb 28: Captain Tractor**
 @ Powerplant
- Mar 1: SU Elections**
 Election Forum, 12pm @ Myer Horowitz
- Mar 1: Movie Nights @ Dewey's**
 Marshall Arts Night: Romeo Must Die & Lethal Weapon 4
- Mar 5: Broken Social Scene**
 w/ The Stills and Raising the Faws @ Dinwoodie Lounge
- Mar 5: Melissa Majeau**
 @ SUBstage
- Mar 6: HiLo CD Release Party**
 @ Powerplant



France is starting down a slippery slope

THE FRENCH ARE MANY THINGS: great lovers, fine chefs, and according to my mother—a native of France—a little bit crazy. On Tuesday, the French government voted 494 in favour of (and 36 against) banning Muslim headscarves and other religious symbols from public schools. Though it seems a foreign and indeed outlandish decision to most Canadians used to our so-called cultural mosaic, this bit of legislation should come as little surprise.

The French have always been vehement supporters of the idea that church and state should be kept separate. Though the rabid desire to keep things separate manifested itself in a 1905 law strictly outlining the separation of both institutions, this symbol-banning legislation sets a precedent that, at least according to one member of President Chirac's government, is "at best a useless law; at worst a dangerous law."

The desire for a secular society aside, the French have started down a rather slippery slope with regards to the amount of personal expression they allow their citizens to express. Religion is, really, just an arbitrary line at which to cut off this self-expression. One could believe as much in religion as one believes in the message of a particular rock 'n' roll band; should wearing said rock 'n' roll band's T-shirt therefore be banned?

France is allowing this form of censorship to persist in schools because schools are "the best tool for planting the roots of the republican idea," according to the draft law. The government has dropped religious ideas in favour of a different idea: that of the nation-state. What's the difference? One is accepted by the population in general; the other, apparently, is not. But this insistence on separating church and state may indeed work, as long as it's applied consistently to every citizen found to be displaying religious symbols. Otherwise, the slope will become even more slippery, as France could be seen as stigmatizing immigrants and—at least according to French Communist party deputy Alain Bocquet—"set things on fire rather than calm them down."

The danger the French wanted to avoid was the polarization of its public institutions with non-secular images and ideas. But enough of a concern, one could suppose. But if the French government's motives were indeed to stifle individual expression and the Islamification of its schools, then France should reconsider its position.

The borders created to separate countries from one another are becoming more and more blurred. Countries are witnessing a great deal of immigration and migration as people try their luck at jobs in other countries or simply opt for different ways of life.

The logical result of this is a tipping of the balance of ethnic groups in many nations. Canada included. If these people are indeed to be considered equal citizens, they cannot be mandated to dress a certain way or to not express themselves how they want.

Who knows; maybe with this new law, the French will be inadvertently stifling the creativity of the next crazy, ever-loving French chef the world's been waiting for.

ADAM ROZENHART
Managing Editor

It's reading week, give us a break

THE REASON READING WEEK EXISTS seems to be lost.

The week, put in place for stress relief and to allow students to catch up on looming assignments, is now used for midterm studying and essay writing.

Maybe the name is what advocates its misuse, but then again, there is an obvious negative connotation in naming something "Prevent Suicide Week."

The term reading week ties it to school, encouraging students to catch up on studying, but professors take advantage of it to pile on new assignments. They seem to be missing the point.

I use the appeal of placing deadlines directly after the break, but professors need to take a step back and remember that breaks are there for a reason. After all, stress relief is just as important as studying.

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

LETTERS

Manasyk should resign for her cartoon taste

I have a major problem with the fact that your paper could print the article "Spanking isn't as bad as people think," (3 February) by Sarah Hanasyk. For somebody who considers himself to be a liberal-minded person, I am simply appalled that she could even conceive of the notion that Muppet Babies is superior in any way to Astroboy.

First off, Astroboy was the first cartoon to be produced in Japan that became massively successful worldwide. Perhaps if Ms Hanasyk had done some research before subjecting the readership of the Gateway to her scathing review, she would have mentioned that the cartoon has set the standard for Japanese animation even today. Where would TV be today without the additions the likes of Astroboy has made to our culture?

Second, I would like to state that Astroboy also set a moral guideline for the youth of the '80s, by fighting the threats of humanity with his rocket boots, lasers, and machine guns. Without this guidance, perhaps we as adults would have become drooling, destructive wackos like Animal, as I am certain Ms Hanasyk would have loved "Go bye-bye," as a society we shall indeed!

In closing, I feel it is wrong to judge Astroboy on superficial qualities and misconceptions as has been done in Ms Hanasyk's piece. I pray that no further readers are subjected to this form of blatant propaganda in the future.

JOSH ANDERSON
Artist

GSA should be ashamed

As a graduate student at the University of Alberta, it was with disgust that I read the letter two weeks ago from my GSA president explaining her need to support another tuition increase at the Board of Governors meeting ("GSA explains its stance on the tuition increase," 29 January). It is one thing to sell out, but entirely different to sell out for as little as the GSA seems to have this year.

The U of A Board of Governors voted to increase tuition by the legal maximum, in this case 5.3 per cent, and did so for reasons we are all familiar with: government underfunding, utility increases, and the rising cost of running a university. The situation for students, however, is far more dire.

The GSA has suggested that by moving the motion to increase tuition we have sent a message to the government that students are paying all that they can pay. The flaw of that logic is that we have not sent the intended message, but rather sent the message that after a tripling of our tuition, we are still too happy to pay more.

Furthermore, we have failed to present a common position on behalf of all students—graduate, undergraduate, and prospective, international, etc.—not to mention the people who do not attend the university because they simply



cannot afford it. I doubt the SU was advocating not to increase tuition because the current cohort simply did not want to pay more. By moving the motion to increase tuition this year, the GSA presented graduates as greedy, self-interested elitists, which we are most certainly not.

I hope next year's GSA is more insightful in recognizing the human tuition increases have caused, and vote against another maximum tuition increase rather than promote it.

RYAN FOROVICH
Grad Students II

Manji talk is constantly disrupted

There must have been two Irishlad Manji talks I certainly wasn't at the same one where apparently the final question of the evening came from the University of Alberta's Muslim Chaplin, who politely challenged Manji's grasp of her subject material by asking, "How many times have you read the Koran?" ("Controversial speaker draws diverse crowd," 3 February)

I was at the one where a man—who did not identify himself to Ms Manji or to the audience, nor explain his actions—interrupted her (and us) about four or five times during the Q&A portion of the evening, for which Ms Manji had clearly described her personal vision as to how it should go. He came down the aisle and handed her another microphone. She didn't ask for one and didn't want to use it (she had in mind another dialogical procedure—handing her mic over—and had told us all this).

She did try to incorporate the second mic, got nasty interference, then, thinking the man, said she really preferred not to use it. He then went up onto the stage [at this point Ms Manji was in the audience], and did something at the podium for half a minute. It was very distracting and disrespectful of what Ms Manji was trying to do with us. He then walked off the stage to the back of the room and repeated the mic antics. He then told her that

he himself was going to go around the room with the second mic and pass it to questioners. We still had no idea who this person was or why he was forcing himself into this whole process. It totally changed the dynamic, since we didn't know where the next question was coming from (Manji just had to peer into the dark, too, and receive the questions which were volleyed at her, which is very, very different from walking over, saying "hi," and handing a mic over). But I thought she was gracious nonetheless.

At the beginning of the talk, Ms Manji told us that she had a flight to catch and would call an end to the session when she needed to in order to leave time for book signing. She did that. She said "one more question," took it, answered, and then thanked us, saying she'd see us in the lobby.

Then the man who had the microphone started to speak. He said, "I have a question!" Then he proceeded to make a series of not-so-veiled claims about how one has to be of a certain age (at least as old as he was), and one has to be able to read the Holy Book in Arabic (like he said it), and one has to have read it at least, 40 times from cover to cover (like he has done) before one has any right to say anything about it. He didn't have a question so much as a declaration that she, a young non-Arabic speaking non-clerical woman, had no right to speak and that he, an elder, Arabic speaking pious male, did.

His actions that evening were deplorable. He showed Ms Manji no respect in his actions and in his final arrogant usurpation. Funny that Ms Manji's main claim—that dissent or alternate readings of what is Holy—are perpetually shut down within the Muslim faith, and when this happens, it is usually at the expense of women and minorities rights or basic respect.

DR KAREN HOLLE
Department of Philosophy

ENCMCP fee under review

Graham Lettner ("University's

hidden course fee not playing by the rules," 29 January) and his friend are rightfully concerned that a fee is being charged for lab exercises in ENCMCP 100. So is the Engineering Students' Society along with the First Year Engineering Club and first-year engineering students, we've raised this issue with the ENCMCP 100 instructors, the department of electrical and computer engineering (which offers the course), the faculty of engineering, and at the University level.

At General Faculties Council on Monday, 25 January, I asked whether the University had any policy on charging students for third-party evaluation of coursework, or in fact any policy on third-party evaluation. Unsurprisingly, the University doesn't. This is something that the Students' Union and the ESS will be working to change through the GFC structure at the University-wide level, but also for the Faculty of Engineering through its Undergraduate Student-Staff Committee.

However, I should note that there is a slight inaccuracy in Mr Lettner's column: the faculty of engineering wasn't aware, until the ESS brought it to their attention that this fee was in place.

We don't yet know the circumstances by which this fee was imposed, but we're doing everything in our power to make sure that it isn't charged again. We can't guarantee that students will get their money back, but we'll try our hardest. We'll be providing more information through our weekly publication, the Bridge, as it arises.

CHRIS JONES
VP (External Relations)
Engineering Students' Society

Irresponsible advertising

Last week I was watching TV when I saw a commercial meant to discourage the use of marijuana. The commercial emphasized responsibility, and the "detrimental" effect that marijuana use has on one's ability to fully fulfill his responsibility.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 8



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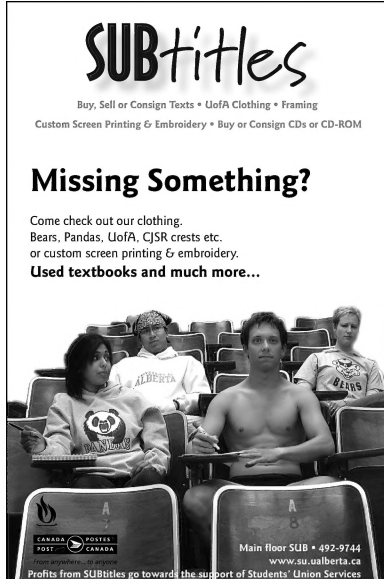
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MOORE LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

A swimming competition is about to begin and all of the teams consist of four members, with the exception of one team, which is obviously missing its starting swimmer. The race begins, and the teams with all four members plunge into the pool, while the team of three expresses their discontent at their disqualification. The commercial then says, "Just tell your team you were busy getting high," and flashes a bold "RESPONSIBILITY: The Anti-drug" banner across the screen. Fine. I'm not about to convince anyone of the truth or lack thereof in this statement.

Here's the kicker: not two commercials later, an advertisement for hang-over-cure pills was aired. A man, his hair disheveled and eyes bloodshot, had indicative of a late night with one-too-many bevvies, is seated at his kitchen table, obviously suffering from a hang-over. His wife enters the kitchen, hupper that a pig in a shirt. The man says he's feeling so good, considering that he "drank more than [him] last night!" She pulls out a box of pills—guaranteed to cure hangovers—and goes into a lengthy spiel about how once you take this miracle drug, you'll never have to go to work hung over again. The liquor industry has been revolutionized—now their customers can conveniently get loaded all week long, not just on the weekends, and no one will know!

So now I ask the obvious question: what does getting pissed out of your tree, taking a pill, then going to work the next morning say about responsibility? According to these commercials, smoke a single joint and you'll magically become an unreliable, irresponsible dick. However, quite legally, you can pound back a forty, chase it with a mickley of vodka, and go to work in top-notch condition the next day, fulfilling your responsibilities.

Is it just me, or does something not add up here?

CORI BAUSDON
Science I

Not councilors' jobs to make students care

I'd like to applaud Jake Troughton on his gutsy article appearing in the 5 February Gateway. Effective representation starts with a full Council chamber.

Perhaps it's an unfortunate reality that there will always be people who believe the Students' Union is unimportant and irrelevant. From reading this article it is not difficult to see why we sound like a snobby social group motivated purely by selfish interest, evilly cutting away helpless students' chances at being fairly represented in the University at large. The fundamental purpose of the SU is to represent you, the student. I believe that I speak not only for myself but also for my fellow councilors when I say our job is to represent the unique needs, concerns and issues of our students.

There is no doubt that apathetic students will always exist (a strong case in point: "Streeters" from the 5 February issue) and it's not our job to make them care, but it is our job to keep them informed.

Yes, in the past six weeks several councilors have been eliminated from their positions. The reasoning for this follows along Bylaw 100, the purpose being to ensure that councilors attend so that they can remain accountable to their students. I will disagree with Mr Troughton in that partial representation is better than no representation at all. Given the sheer volume of material we deal with its absolutely vital for councilors (or their proxies) to be in attendance. Despite the fact that I disagree with the loss of these councilors, it is a non-issue; the issue here is the rules of the government.

We strive to constantly empower the students to let them effectively make changes within their own communities here on campus. This is why it is impor-

tant to know who is representing you. Is something bugging you? Is it attendance requirements for councilors? Is it the perceived lack of representation? Whatever your bone of contention, there are a variety of ways to make your self heard. A list of the entire council and their e-mail appears in the "Student Government" section of your free SU handbook; executive offices are in 2-900 SUB and we meet every second Tuesday at 6pm in University Hall.

Don't choose apathy. Don't seethe silently. Don't grumble that year after year the SU doesn't do anything. Take a chance, get involved, and speak up. Talk to us, e-mail us, show up at a meeting or come out and vote this March. We can only represent you if you let us know what's on your mind.

HOLLY HIGGINS
SU Phys Ed & Rec Coordinator

Troughton's right; Council attendance is a shambles

I would like to express my complete agreement with the sentiments expressed by Jake Troughton in Thursday's paper ("Effective representation starts with a full Council chamber," 5 February). Thanks to the attendance requirements that Students' Council has brought into effect, the faculty of agriculture, forestry, and home economics and the faculty of medicine and oral health sciences are wholly without representation, and faculty of science only has two of the nine councilors it originally elected remaining. Attendance requirements were also cited as a factor in the resignation of two education councilors, leaving that faculty with only two of five seats filled.

This legislative carnage is a result of a well-intentioned but misguided Council of yore paving the road to hell by passing a bylaw that removed councilors who didn't attend enough meetings. This was done under the guise of protecting constituents from delinquent councilors. Many students have now been protected right out of representation.

A motion to abolish attendance requirements will come before Council at its 9 March meeting. Contact your councilors (whose contact information is available in the Students' Union handbook and on the Students' Union website) and urge them to stop the madness by voting yes to this motion.

STEVE SMITH
SU Science Councilor

Homeless shelter argument propagates stereotype

Enamored delusions of society aside, a new low point may have been achieved in Edmonton. I say to Corinne Lillo (interviewed in "Homeless shelter raises ire among Strathcona residents," 5 February), since when has your community been free of the homeless and transient? Perhaps you should take a stroll down your neighborhood's esteemed Whyte Avenue and observe the panhandlers and drunken pub-goers.

Perhaps the most disturbing and heartening trend in the arguments in general, is the movement to automatically brand the homeless as criminals—whether directly or indirectly. I concede that there is an elevated level of crime among the low income demographic. However, not all of these people have earned the metaphorical Star of David you place upon them. What further aggravates my disgust with the blatant use of homeless propaganda is the fact that the shelter is called "Out-of-the-Cold," meaning winter, which involves six months of the year in Edmonton. They are providing a shelter so the homeless do not freeze to death, and I believe most people, including the homeless, have better things to do than commit a

crime when it is -40°C.

During the day they will be on their way, and then you can watch them from behind your curtain to make sure your gnome is still on your lawn when they pass. As the shelter is on Church property, and this does not necessarily add to the existing problems of Strathcona, perhaps we should be focusing on the charitable act of the church offering an alternate space for the homeless.

JEREMY SWITZER
Science IV

The homeless are being treated unfairly

"Shelters must be located where there is the least impact to the community," said Corinne Lillo, a Strathcona resident ("Homeless shelter raises ire among Strathcona residents," 5 February). I can think of no better description of the phrase "out of sight, out of mind."

It would be impossible to shelter Edmonton's homeless without significant impact on the community unless we resorted to locking them up like the criminals or animals they are presumed to be. There exists no fundamental distinction between, no greater consistency in the moral fibre of humans with or without homes. I do not deny that, in utter desperation or more often inconsideration, we have the potential to harm others. I am appalled by the sweeping generalization that the homeless are ill-willed vandals and thieves whom we must fear. On the contrary, these humans are a reflection of our society, and the ever-increasing trend towards egocentric living, which is far more frequent than we are aware of, is the primary reason for the homeless people seeking shelter from the cold.

Despite all that has transpired in finding shelter for Edmonton's homeless, it seems a positive conclusion to the winter in which reach. The Knox-Metropolitan shelter will provide a much-needed refuge for the homeless and a unique opportunity for the residents of Strathcona to visit the shelter and meet the people they try to ignore. If the experience proves as frightful as those that "keep them in sight," they might actually be able to create a case against these citizens. If instead they find these individuals as friendly and interesting as I do, then they ought to reassess their community and Edmonton—whose Jim Taylor recently proposed the relocation, though preferably the eradication, of a different demographic, that of the attendees of after-hours clubs.

I propose an alternative solution: a reexamination of how we as human beings treat these so-called delinquent vagabonds who are not so radically different from ourselves. If the truth that emerges is too scary, as I suspect it might be, maybe we should relocate, abandon ship, blow this Popsicle stand. A move down south would allow us to create a veritable super-city and to give up the futile endeavour of rejuvenating our downtown core. The homeless would have the world's biggest mall and the all-night dancers would have free reign of downtown. Meanwhile, to the south, we'd have a super-city free of all the "burdens" that the human beings here cause.

SAMANTHA MALLET
Science II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewayuofa.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, belovous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Get this war machine started: ship off the homeless



GRAHAM
LETTNER

It's funny that with all the different groups working to improve Edmonton—city hall, the provincial government, urban crime-fighting superheroes—we still can't quite get things right. Take our city's homeless: regardless of the Alberta Advantage, Edmonton's ultra-low unemployment and super-high vacancy rate, and Canada's strong social programs, we still are unable to shake off the need for homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

First, let's agree that homeless shelters are not conducive to safe neighbourhoods or strong property values. People just don't want the destitute near schools or around parks filled with youthful laughter. But wouldn't you also agree that downtown is no place for them either? Jasper Avenue holds some of the most expensive real estate Edmonton has to offer, yet short blocks away the homeless have set up permanent shop. The constant presence of the homeless on the streets after-hours does nothing to encourage new business. If Edmonton really wants to rejuvenate its downtown core, as City Hall constantly reminds us it does, it needs to look into a method to alleviate itself of its vagrant affliction.

If homeless shelters are a problem wherever they reside in the city, perhaps they shouldn't be in the city. Why not create a separate place for shelters on the outskirts of town? The problem of nearby residents' concerns about

crime and safety would be negated. Lowered property values would also be of no concern. The homeless would have a place of their own without producing a fear of crime. If we were to offer a solution such as this, would that not satisfy both our down-and-out citizens as well as those taxpayers who find the burden of the homeless heavy and tiresome to bear? Yet I don't believe that simply moving the homeless outside the city would be an end-all solution in itself.

If homeless shelters are a problem wherever they reside in the city, perhaps they shouldn't be in the city.

The recently homeless, relieved of the energy-sapping task of procuring food and shelter on a daily basis, would desire to turn their efforts to new endeavours. Would it not then make sense that work could be done by the members of these shelters to produce goods for the community of Edmonton, who was footing the bill for the social program? Handbags, T-shirts, shoes; any such products that are labour intensive and require little in-depth skill would be perfectly suitable forms for production. The productivity of this new community would be a form of reimbursement for the wise investment the people of Edmonton have made.

With such membership to a separated community as the one proposed, I would suggest that a separate form of identification be created to ensure that the homeless are given their just due. Each occupation would have an ID

card allowing them access to the shelter and its daily meals. Identification would also allow our government to accurately track the numbers of vagrants using this newly-created service. By keeping close watch on the ex-homeless and their productivity, the government could evaluate the usefulness of this new service.

Meanwhile, as the homeless of Edmonton are carving out a new lifestyle for themselves, normal Edmontonians would be reaping the benefits secured by their own insightful planning. With the homeless removed from residential areas, crime rates would drop and families would no longer live in fear. The absence of the homeless loitering about downtown transit stops and otherwise prosperous storefronts would bring an influx of business to our ailing downtown core. The citizens of Edmonton would be able to consider themselves pioneers of a new approach, a people enlightened with a new perspective in coming to grips with the impoverished and destitute that pose a real and constant threat to our city's comfortable and affluent lifestyle.

And just think, when Canada pursues an active policy of *lebensraum* by military conquest of small eastern European states, we could greatly streamline the productive capacity of these outlying collectives. By denying meals, resorting to branding for identification purposes, and forcing the occupants to build munitions instead of imitation Holt Renfrew handbags, we could find ourselves with a very cheap and effective war machine. Really, with the fascist stance many in our community take to the plight of our city's most disadvantaged, we might not be that far off.

Evolution is more than just a buzzword



ROB
FURSZEWICZ

A buzzword. That's what evolution is, according to Georgia's Superintendent of Education, Kathy Cox. Never mind the scientific data behind it: the word alone is devastatingly harmful to her students.

"By putting the word in there, we thought people would jump to conclusions and think, 'okay, we're going to be teaching the monkeys-to-man sort of thing,' which is not what happens in a modern biology classroom," she said, adding that evolution is "a buzzword that causes a lot of negative reaction." So Cox took it upon herself to free the Georgia education system from that evil word, replacing it with the apparently less-controversial phrase, "biological changes over time." It means the same but sounds nicer.

It all begs the question: if simply renaming problematic, shitspew-brewing terms and converting them into a less succinct form is all it takes to make the problem go away, why not apply the same "anti-buzzword" formula to other controversial topics that might confuse or harm our precious children?

Take sex, for example. That's a mean one for the kids, especially when it comes to its classroom-based educa-

tion. Of course, the word "sex" has been corrupted by the media to conjure up prepubescent, erection-forming fantasies before the kids know what's really up. So what better way to revoke sex's buzzword-status than by calling it the "affection-based semen transfer process"? No more dirty S-words! Let's just get to the meat of the matter, right? What a way to save the kiddies a lot of undue corruption and the education system a lot of time.

Evolution, while still technically a theory, has so much evidence supporting it that it's virtually scientific fact.

This is why Georgia's new suggested monitor for evolution is just silly. At face value, the idea is insane enough—what purpose will a name change serve? Whether Georgians are already smart enough already or not, why go forward with such a minute change that will only alienate Georgian students even further from the rest of their country and the world's scientific zeitgeist?

Evolution, while still technically a theory, has so much evidence supporting it that it's virtually scientific fact. And as the evidence continues to pile up, the theory's acceptance continues to grow.

If the Bible-Belt state of Georgia is uncomfortable with evolution as a competitive force against their beloved

creationist ideas, then they need only look to the Pope for a dose of reality. In 1996, Pope John Paul II stated, "new knowledge has led to the recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis... It is indeed remarkable that this theory has been progressively accepted by researchers, following a series of discoveries in various fields of knowledge. The convergence, neither sought nor fabricated, of the results of work where you stand."

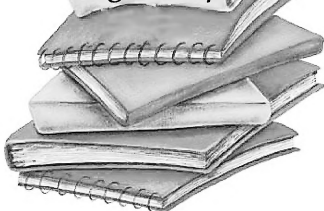
The governor of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, also disagrees with Cox: "If you're going to teach evolution, you ought to call it evolution." Former President Jimmy Carter said he was "embarrassed" by the proposal and feared "ridicule" towards his former home state.

Thank God—or, "one that is worshipped, idealized, or followed"—that on 5 February, Cox reversed her position—but she didn't reverse the laughter directed towards her and her state from around the world.

If education officials feel the need to back-student from what they see as the ever-encroaching evil of science, then so be it. But reality-minded individuals can only hope that the mind-state of anti-evolutionists and conservative cultural protectionists evolve into something a bit more intelligent.

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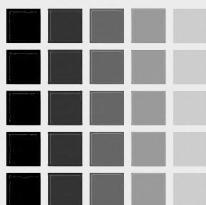
**Gateway Alumni Association Meeting
Friday, February 27 at 5:00pm
Alumni Room, Students' Union Building**

For more information, contact: Steve Lillemoen, Alumni Representative at steven@lillemoen.ca

THE GATEWAY



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3-04 SUB.

THE GATEWAY

Canada needs direct democracy

TREVOR PANAS



The word "election" is flying around everywhere these days, from our neighbours to the south who are currently in the midst of a Democratic Party leadership race, to right here on campus as we prepare for the annual SU "Who has the dreamiest eyes?" contest. The new Conservative Party of Canada is in the process of selecting a leader to challenge Paul Martin and the Liberals this spring, and in Alberta the eight-ball reads "All Signs Point to Election," as Mr Klein rolls out plans to increase health and education spending.

This means that a lot of critical thought must be put into the various platforms that each would-be representative will be running on, and careful choices must be made as to who represents our values and beliefs most accurately, and therefore, will hopefully run our SU/Province/Nation in accordance to the will of the majority.

However, with only a finite number of options to choose from, it is highly unlikely that a voter will find a candidate or party with whom he or she is in total agreement with. Thus, voters are forced to be "represented"

by someone who doesn't necessarily represent them at all.

For example, if you would like to see environmental protection put at the top of the national agenda, but you don't believe in gay marriage or marijuana decriminalization, who do you vote for? The NDP, who would surely make the environment a priority but might simultaneously allow gay marriage and declare pot legal? Or do you vote for the Conservatives, who will surely leave marijuana a controlled substance and "preserve the traditional family unit," but who have never let the environment get in the way of business? There is no easy answer. But what if you could represent yourself, in the form of direct democracy?

At first, 30 million people debating an issue would lead to some lengthy sessions in Parliament. You may also argue that people whose job is not as a Member of Parliament don't have time to carefully weigh each issue or read each proposed piece of legislation. However, I think that with a few modifications, direct democracy is possible in Canada.

What if we took the 300+ seats in Parliament, cut them down to a more efficient number (say, 50 seats), distributed them by proportional representation in accordance with the popular vote, and then televised the debates, after which we could all register our votes electronically? Bills and amendments would still be proposed

by the MPs, but would be voted on by everyone. You may, once again, think this is far too time consuming, but it is also possible to perhaps restructure the debate process so that, after a longer and more exhaustive discussion, a "summary debate" would occur, wherein a select few members from each side of the issue would succinctly present their case to the public. Summaries could be made available online or in print media, so that anyone unable or unwilling to watch the debate on TV could read the issue over.

It would encourage all citizens to actively participate in the democratic process, and would also lead to a better-informed public and less apathy. Giving up a few hours a week to actually make a difference would be well worth the sacrifice, and would give us the ability to vote what makes sense instead of for a representative whose views are not totally congruent with our own. Even if this style of democracy was only used for contentious issues of national importance and the more mundane everyday workings of government were left to elected representatives, it would be a large step in the right direction.

I'm tired of sitting on the sidelines while our elected officials piss away our time and our money, and prevent us from escaping the restrictions of party politics. It's time we take the power back into our own hands. And if you don't agree with me, let's put it to a vote.

Being single's better than the alternative

KYLIA COULMAN



As the consumption of chocolate is about to reach its yearly peak, it is sadly apparent that the dreaded money-tubed holiday of frenzied lustiness—Valentine's Day—is upon us again. But whereas some guys rely on fashion magazines, slatty clothing or impasto make-up schemes to lure some man-meet in this festive season, I have unfortunately become privy to the best strategy through long hard years of foolish experience. It involves a large sign emblazoned with the phrase, "Men are the Bane of My Existence! Stay Far Far Away!"

Though I am not seriously a man-hater at all, any feature affiliated to the concept of having an intimate "relationship" with any of them makes me want to hurl forth obscenities. This fear and loathing specifically pertains to matters of incompatibility, compassion overdoes, and the ordeal involved in disposing of the evidence when the latter two qualities have fermented too long in my presence.

On issues of incompatibility, a few examples of those hapless enough to date me from more than two weeks come to mind, especially "Sensitive Pony-Tail Socialist Guy." This quivering mass of emotion attached to a metric tonne of baggage is quite endearing until he expects you to believe that "Marxist-Leninist-Pacifism" isn't a huge blaring contradiction long enough to get his one-minute monsoon in your pants.

However, there is always the "Dumb Ass" for rebound. Testosterone leaks out of his every orifice, conversation is incoherent, thus annoying nicknames

are thoroughly avoidable. He is really so addled from the party life that he doesn't know his left hand from his right. This is why he needs you.

Of course, no diatribe on unselectable men is complete without the "Emotionally Unstable Muscian." When he's brooding (a fine-art term for pouting like a two-year-old) with his miserable suburban upbringing or bowing down to an incensed Cobain altar in his room, he's drinking too much coffee so he can pepper future conversation with tales of insomnia-driven woe. Meanwhile, he's sure you are the missing link that will cure him from imminent bouts of depression and probable suicide.

What do these disastrous experiences have in common other than varying sizes of anatomy and an unhealthy penchant for video games? It's so obvious: not a damn thing. The only commonality of these characters lies in me, in my disgusting characteristic of being too compassionate and unable to say no to a pathetic creature. As far as the laws of natural selection go, I'm starting to feel sort of doomed, like a praying mantis at the bottom rung of the mating ladder who gets the male whose head is already

chewed off.

This leads me to my next grudge. Why the hell is it always me who ends up purring the hearts of the innocent for the margaritas of regained singleness? I don't enjoy this seemingly permanent stance of being the evicating party, rather than the evicuated. I'm not sure of other boys and girls who've shared this delightful task, but I always seem to make a big mess of things, and I hate seeing men cry. I pray for the day I am dumped, because there is no mourning, but rather an inappropriately jubilant clicking of the heels as I make a clean getaway.

The most important thing to learn from this rant is that it is not healthy to go out with someone who needs you more than you need them. It is an often-practiced rule of nature that the female is usually the selector of an adequate mate, so please, guys, make it easier for us. I have taken the liberty of devising a plan: guys, if you're dating someone, are out with a girl and she suddenly feels the urge to go home and feed her cat let imminent bad things occur to said pet, just let her go. Don't pine, don't beg or grovel, and please don't walk me home.

David Alexander's TOP TEN

Signs it's Valentine's Day in prison

- 10 Romantic cons tattoo sluttier pictures than usual on each other's backs.
- 9 Ass hurts from smuggling in box of chocolates from girlfriend.
- 8 Riot erupts when prison canteen runs out of those little cinnamon hearts.
- 7 It's practically raining dropped-soap in the showers.
- 6 The price of a bitch goes up five cigarettes.
- 5 Guards lovingly warm hands before cavity searches.
- 4 Tension in cafeteria eases when heart-shaped slabs of meatloaf are served.
- 3 The sexy smooth sounds of Barry White are piped over the PA system after lights-out.
- 2 Cellmate gives you a hickey before pounding you in the ass.
- 1 A 400-pound biker named "Doc Cupid" shivs you right in the heart.

The permanent solution for unwanted hair

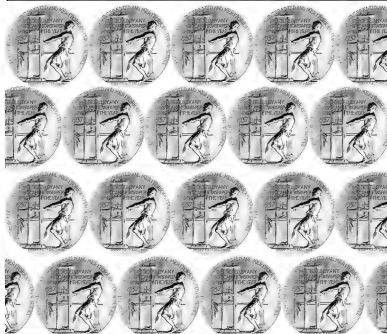
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THE GATEWAY

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14 - ALUN PIGGINS & THE QUITTERS
EX. MEMBERS OF THE MORGANFIELDS (TORONTO)

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28 - THE HOUSE DOCTORS

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Wake up over reading week



PAUL
REIKIE

We are not the walking dead. We will not simply settle our way through life, spilling our attention from one duty to the next. We will not be squashed by the chores of our chosen paths. We will not let beauty around us pass us by. We must not forget to remember.

Some of the glazed and weary expressions that pass by me in the halls with bags under dulled eyes and the smell of cold coffee on their breath would be enough to put mothers to tears. What the hell are we doing to ourselves? I don't think we have to break ourselves to get this job done, this student job, or any hard job for that point. That's why we have reading week, which may be called flying monkey week for all the reading that gets done.

So reading week was established because people were breaking themselves, but reading week or not, people are still breaking themselves. Stressy tool enough, be it of stone or steel, and it will break. Treat it with respect, and it will serve you well. If we insist on treating ourselves like exam-, paper- or report-writing tools, we need to treat ourselves with respect, or we'll break—and by some of the lost looks I've seen in the hallways recently, I'd say a few people are fast-tracking to Willy Lomanism.

The answer? I think we'd be wise to realize over reading week whether

we're actually plugged into our lives, or if we're just numbing ourselves most of the time. I think that when we detach ourselves from our daily lives, because we've got a paper to write or an assignment due, we're cutting ourselves off from all the happenings and energy around us. We should be able to feel alert at all times, and be energized by that itself.

If you're feeling broken at the end of midweek, maybe ask yourself why, because I don't think we ever need to be broken. We all have the capacity for greatness, but I think we only ever realize that when we can focus ourselves completely on what we're doing. Don't wear yourself out walking around in a funk with six things on your mind. Do one thing at a time and do it well. If something's bothering you, don't let it fester; just do something about it and leave it behind.

Think critically about the politics of power structures that insulate us from the real causes of angst. Open your eyes to what is outside the box, and emancipate yourself with action, if that means writing a letter, confronting someone, or whatever. Let all the people you meet and all the things you see and feel during the day fill you up, not drain you. Ram Das wrote to the importance of being completely here and now no matter what you're doing, and I think it's good advice.

So enjoy your flying monkey week completely. Eat with all your attention, drink with all of your attention, laugh, sweat, read, remember, and respect all things with all of your attention. We're not meant to be drained by our lives; we're meant to be nourished by them. It's the journey, not the destination, right?

Where's the quality of education? I'm sick of sitting on the floor



NATASHA
DANG

Having spent almost a month now sitting in the slush and grime left behind by some hundred-odd students, any school pride I might have had for the University of Alberta has completely evaporated. Even though I've never been able to recite the U of A motto off the top of my head, I have always looked upon my alma mater with a sort of fondness and benign indulgence—even during fire drills in the middle of winter and endless tuition hikes.

But in January, everything changed, as I found myself taking a certain very enjoyable, very well-taught course with only one catch—there were more students than chairs. Consequently, I ended up on the stairs; there, instead of focusing on the course material, I seethed in private until I was compelled to write this Industrial Revolution-era Marxist-style rant on poor working conditions.

Realizing that the U of A is a public institution with limited funds, I've never expected to be treated like a princess (although I certainly wouldn't object to some royal treatment), but I can't accept paying roughly \$5000 in tuition each year just to be treated like a second-class citizen, either. After all, even that most mercenary of industries, air travel, famed for customer harassment, has higher standards.

"Realizing that the U of A is a public institution with limited funds, I've never expected to be treated like a princess (although I certainly wouldn't object to some royal treatment), but I can't accept paying roughly \$5000 in tuition each year just to be treated like a second-class citizen, either."

When I pay \$500 to fly Air Canada to Toronto, they might lose my bags in transit or spill coffee in my lap, but they don't stick me in the baggage hold or dangle me from the wings if the plane is full.

For a teaching institution, the U of A sure doesn't provide an environment conducive to learning. How is a girl supposed to concentrate on enzyme regulation, cell-cell recognition, or signal transduction when her precarious balance boards are forever on the verge of toppling into the mud and she knows her cold jeans are being ruined by the cold, soggy, extremely grungy floor? That said, how can the University demand ever-increasing tuition fees to finance an ever-decreasing quality of education?

I've heard of overcrowding and stretching of resources, but this is ridiculous. Okay, the University can't always provide state-of-the-art equipment in every lab or a personal Dell computer for every student in every lecture hall, but come on—chairs? That's about as basic and low-tech as educational needs get. To my knowledge, Alberta schoolhouses were able to provide adequate seating for their students way back in the 1880s; apparently, times have changed. Granted, it makes economic sense to stretch

University resources as far as possible. For example, I, personally, don't have a problem with class sizes of 400+ students, but the University also has an educational and moral responsibility to adhere to the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity to ensure that all students have a fair and equal learning environment.

If the U of A ranked sixth in the category of doctoral universities in Canada, according to the 2003 Maclean's University Rankings, yet can't provide enough chairs for its students, I shudder to think what kind of practices must prevail at other, lower-ranked Canadian universities. Perhaps the twelfth-ranked University of Ottawa holds classes in the parking garages at Parliament Hill? I even heard it rumoured that the fourteenth-ranked University of Calgary actually likes to promote human sacrifice of students—but, no, even U of C couldn't be so barbaric.

What can I do except grin and bear it (the stairs I mean, not the human sacrifice)? My only consolation is that you can actually see the overhead and hear the professor from the stairs, unlike the poor souls in the back of the class. Small consolation for having to sit in the stuff from the bottoms of everyone's shoes.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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PURITY TEST

You know you're **bad**, you're **bad**, you know it.
Come on.

But how "**bad**" are you exactly? Mayhaps you should take a gander at this here olde-fashioned Purity Test.

Sex, drugs, and rock and/or roll it up, answer the following questions, and tally up your score (perhaps by carving your points into a hooker's carcass). Compare your **badtitude** rating with those of Gateway "celebrities," your friends, your mom and dad. You know you're bad, now prove it to the world with irrefutable numerical evidence.



TOMFOOLERY

Forgive me father, for I have sinned? (1 pt)

Pride? (2 pts)
Envy? (2 pts)
Gluttony? (2 pts)
Lust? (2 pts)
Wrath? (2 pts)
Greed? (2 pts)
Sloth? (2 pts)
Peanut butter handjob? (10 pts)

Ever had an impure thought? (1 pt)
About your best friend? (2 pts)
Your best friend's significant other? (3 pts)
Your mother? (5 pts)
Mat Brechtel? (10 pts)

Do you hate:
Love? (2 pts)
Justice? (2 pts)
Yourself? (1 pt)
Mondays? (-1 pt)
Charles Atkins? (-5 pts)
Do you hate your roommate? (1 pt)
Because he/she's ugly? (1 pt)
Fat? (1 pt)
Ugly and fat? (2 pts)
Has a smelly beard? (6 male, 20 female)
Eats your Doritos in the bathtub? (10 pts)
Because he planted drugs in your stowaway luggage? (-2 pts)
Ever stolen your roommate's clothes? (1 pt)
Ever stolen your roommate's food? (1 pt)

And eaten it in their bed? (2 pts)
Naked? (3 pts)
Off their special lady/gentleman friend? (5 pts)

Ever humiliated yourself on national television? (1 pt)
On *Canadian Idol*? (2 pts)
On the Muchmusic VJ Search? (2 pts)
On *Real TV*? (3 pts)
On the evening news? (4 pts)
Are you Peter Hill? (50 pts)

Ever made a prank call? (2 pts)
Was their refrigerator running? (2 pts)
Very homosexually? (10 pts)
Ever told or heard a racist or dead baby joke? (1 pt)
Did you laugh? (5 pts)
Did you repeat it to a dead baby? (10 pts)

Ever taken an elevator for less than two floors? (1 pt)
And passed gas on the way up? (3 pts)
Then blamed it on the one other person in the elevator? (5 pts)
Ever stopped on the stairs in the Tory/Business Atrium for a long chat? (1 pt)
Ever written an angrily-worded letter to the Gateway about the schmucks who do? (-10 pts)

Ever done the bodyrock y'all for the Pope? (10 pts)
Do you tend to say things like "bodyrock y'all"? (-10 pts)

COURTESY AND HYGIENE

Ever worn the same underpants for over a week? (2 pts)
One month? (5 pts)
Do you wear underwear? (-2 pts)
Boxers? (-1 pt)
Briefs? (-2 pts)
Those fancy long underwears with a poop chute? (-5 pts)
Chastity Belt? (-20 pts)
Ever refused to clean yourself for over a week? (2 pts)
One month? (5 pts)
Do you have leprosy? (100 pts)

Ever used the "wrong" bathroom? (1 pt)
Cause you couldn't hold it in no longer? (1 pt)
To see if the rumours of toilet ducks and unicorn bathroom attendants were true? (1 pt)
To take pictures? (2 pts)
Do you "let it mellow"? (2 pts)
Ever "forgotten" to wash your hands? (2 pts)
Before heading back to the hamburger griddle? (5 pts)
Ever refused to spare a square to the person in the next stall? (2 pts)
Ever used the handicapped stall just because you dig the extra legroom? (4 pts)
Ever shared a urinal? (6 pts)
Just to be social? (8 pts)

Ever "write your name" in the snow? (1 pt)
Ever "write your name" on someone's rug? (4 pts)
Did the result really tie the room

together? (2 pts)

Peed in a pool? (2pts)
Swam in a toilet? (5 pts)

HOOLIGANISM

Ever jaywalked? (2 pts)
Ever hit a jaywalker? (10 pts)
Repeatedly? (20 pts)
With an aluminum bat? (30 pts)
With your dink? (100 pts)

Ever broken the speed limit? (2 pts)
Doubled it? (4 pts)
And sped so fast you made parking meters explode? (50 pts)
And girls' skirts fly off? (Torque!)

Ever streaked? (5 pts)
In your living room? (-5 pts)
At a Bears' Game? (3 pts)
At the Heritage Classic? (10 pts)
Just to get tackled? (10 pts)

Ever cheated on a test? (2 pts)
Purity test? (2 pts)
Drug test? (10 pts)
Pregnancy test? (25 pts)

Ever pulled a fire alarm to get out of an exam? (3 pts)
Ever set a fire to get out of an exam? (10 pts)
Ever set your exam on fire to get out of an exam? (15 pts)

Ever pirated music from the Internet? (1 pt)
Just so you could wear a pirate hat and say "yarr"? (5 pts)

Dined and dashed? (3 pts)
Paid for dinner with Monopoly money? (5 pts)
Counterfeit Monopoly money? (10 pts)
"Forgotten" to tip? (2 pts)
Pretended to tip? (4 pts)

Have you ever stolen:
Office supplies? (1 pt)
A road sign? (2 pts)
Money? (3 pts)
Drugs? (4 pts)
Poland? (100 pts)

Ever committed an illegal act? (5 pts)
Just to say you had? (5 pts)
Just to get a couple measly points on the Purity Test? (-5 pts)
Ever successfully frame someone of an illegal act? (10 pts)
Was it Roger Rabbit? (2000 pts)
Ever been in jail? (20 pts)
Just to meet colourful singles? (25 pts)

Been to the Strat? (1 pt)
Vegas? (2 pts)
Reno? (2 pts)
Shot a man in Reno, just to watch him die? (1000 pts)

CONTINUED, PAGE 14



MORE PURITY TEST, BABY

Do you live in Lister? (2 pts)
Just to get into Campus
Crimebeat? (10 pts)
Three Henday! Three Henday!
Three Henday! (15 pts)

Ever been in Campus
Crimebeat? (10 pts)
For screaming at pictures of the
Pope? (150 pts)
Did you save the clipping?
(2 pts)

ULTRA-VIOLENCE

Ever been in a fight? (2 pts)
With a girl? (3 pts)
With a small child? (4 pts)
With a hobo? (10 pts)
With a gorilla? (12 pts)
With a bear? (15 pts)
Ever paid hobos to fight to the
death? (15 pts)
Ever been paid by hobos to fight
to the death? (30 pts)

Ever kick someone in the nuts?
(3 pts)
Ever declare jihad on someone's
genitals? (7 pts)

Ever killed a goldfish? (2 pts)
By over-feeding it? (2 pts)
By over-loving it? (5 pts)
By feeding it beer? (10 pts)
Because you didn't want to drink
alone? (-3 pts)
Ever kicked a puppy? (2 pts)
Over three metres? (10 pts)
Into a larger group of puppies
who were all then injured by the
aforementioned kicked puppy?
(15 pts/puppy injured)
Ever put a bandana around its
neck, sat on it and forced it to
play cowboy? (15 pts)

Have you ever...
Crushed your enemies? (1pt)
Seen them
driven before
you? (3 pts)
And heard

the lamentations of their
women? (10 pts)

MAKING WOO

Ever held hands? (1 pt)
Ever kissed someone of the
opposite sex? (2 pts)
Ever kissed someone of the
same sex? (3 pts)
Ever kissed a Newfie? (3 pts)
A cod? (5 pts)
Licked a puffin? (7 pts)

Ever played spin the bottle?
(1 pt)
Naked spin the bottle? (4 pts)
Strip Poker? (2 pts)
Strip Scrabble? (3 pts)
Strip Solitaire? (-4 pts)

Have you touched "it"? (2 pts)

Ever fooled someone while
dressed up as the opposite sex?
(2 pts)
While not dressed up like the
opposite sex? (3 pts)
Ever hit on a prof? (2 pts)
Did you still fall? (-2 pts)
Ever hit on Campus 5-0? (2 pts)
SafeWalk? (2 pts)
SUB janitor? (3 pts)
Gateway editor? (4 pts)
Carl Amrhein? (5 pts)
To lower your tuition? (3 pts)

Ever flirted to get out of a ticket?
(2 pts)
With a same-sex cop? (3 pts)
Did he/she go for it? (4 pts)
Did he/she stop you again a
block later? (-4 pts)

Ever ride the skinboat to Tuna Town? (2 pts)

Did you do it "wrong"? (7 pts)
"Mistake" an out-hole for an
in-hole? (6 pts)
But it was better anyway?
(12 pts)
How many years away from 18
were you when you lost your

virginity? (2 pts/year below,
-1 pt/year above)
Still pure as water from the
Rockies? (-5 pts)
Ever taken someone's virginity?
(3 pts)
Ever bought someone's
virginity? (5 pts)
On Ebay? (6 pts)
Ever pretended to be a virgin?
(3 pts)
Just to get laid? (3 pts)

Ever slept with someone more
than twice, or less than half your
height/weight? (5 pts)
Ever had sex with someone
more than 10 years younger or
older than you? (5 pts)
20? (6 pts)
30? (7 pts)
40? (8 pts)

David Bowie? (50 pts)
Ever listened to your roommates
having sex? (3 pts)
Did you pound on the wall? (1 pt)
Did they keep at it? (1 pt)
If you can't beat them, join
them? (10 pts)
Did you tape it? (5 pts)
Did you force them to call you
"Paris"? (15 pts)

Ever broken up with someone?
(2 pts)
Taken out their beating heart
and smashed it on the cold, cold
floor? (10 pts)
Did you break up through a
friend? (3 pts)
Answering machine? (4 pts)
On their birthday? (5 pts)
While you were still inside them?
(15 pts)

Ever cheated on your partner?
(2 pts)
Has someone ever cheated on
his/her partner with you? (2 pts)
Ever cheated on your partner
with someone who was cheating
on their partner? (3 pts)
Ever partnered with the Cheat
for a carper? (50 pts)

Ever had sex while on the
phone? (3 pts)
While on the phone with your
parents? (4 pts)
While on the phone with your
actual boyfriend/girlfriend? (10
pts)

Ever had sex while on MSN? (3
pts)
Did you use emoticons? (1 pt)
Did you scream OMG? (-3 pts)
Ever screamed out the name
of someone other than your
partner's during sex? (3 pts)
Your own name? (3 pts)
Your cat's name? (4 pts)
David Bowie? (5 pts)

How many times have you had
sex in a 24-hour period? (1pt/
session. Add 5 points for each
partner after 2)
How large a group have you had
sex in? (5 pt/ partner after one)
Was it your company softball
team? (6 pts)
Your mom's company softball
team? (10 pts)

Had sex on campus (residences
are exemptions)? (3 pts)
At work? (3 pts)
Public washroom? (3 pts)
Public transit? (5 pts)
Park? (5 pts)
Bathroom? (5 pts)
Cathouse? (6 pts)
Doghouse? (5 pts)
Love in an elevator? (3 pts)
Mile high club member? (3 pts)
Seen "Paradise by the
Dashboard Light"? (2 pts)
Done anything for love, but you
won't do that? (-2 pts)

Ever missed school or work for
sex? (2 pts)
Ever gone to a Monster Truck
rally instead of sex? (-5 pts)

Do you have a lucky condom?
(5 pts)
Ever had unprotected sex? (5
pts)
With someone you didn't know?
(6 pts)
Ever lied about birth control? (5
pts)
To produce an heir? (5 pts)
Ever used a novelty condom as
a contraceptive? (3 pts)
Was it novel? (1 pt)
As novel as AIDS? (2 pts)

Has it ever felt like bumping
"down there"? (2 pts)
Nasty discharge? (2 pts)
Herpes, crabs? (3 pts)

Syphilis, Gonorrhea? (4 pts)
Did you leave it untreated?
(4 pts)
Did you infect anyone? (5 pts)
Try to infect anyone? (10 pts)

Ever been pregnant? (10 pts)
Did you have an abortion?
(20 pts)
Just to lose weight? (50 pts)

Ever given/received oral sex?
(3 pts)
Ever given/received a handjob?
(3 pts)
A peanut butter handjob? (5 pts)
Chunky? (10 pts)
Smooth? (5 pts)
Did you have it licked off by
squirrels? (10 pts)

Do you own handcuffs, a whip,
paddle, love swing, gag, clamps,
stiletto boots, crotchless pants,
corset, collar, crop, or life-sized
latex fist? (2pts each, 10 pts
bonus if you have them all)
Ever been involved in an S&M
act (restraints, blindfolds, M&Ms,
etc)? (4 pts)
Do you confuse S&M with
M&Ms? (-3 pts)

Does it hurt so good? (2 pts)
Ooh baby, does it hurt so good?
(1 pts)
Ever used a term invented by
Dan Savage? (2 pts)
Ever been featured in Dan
Savage's column? (3 pts)
Ever been in Dan Savage?
(5 pts)

Ever Felched? (5 pts)
Snowballed? (5 pts)
Teabagged? (Frat kids exempt)
(5 pts)
Zita Dubéd? (5 pts)
Given or received a Dirty
Sanchez? (5 pts)
Champagne Hedgehog? (5 pts)
Donkey Punch? (5 pts)
Rim job? (5 pts)
Hot Carl? (5 pts)
Cleveland Steamer? (5 pts)
Cleveland Indian? (-5 pts)

SELF ABUSE

Ever masturbate? (1 pt)

THE DIAGNOSIS

STERILE (0-135):

SAD, SAD, SAD. OUTSIDE OF THE
BIZARRE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU
MANAGED TO SNAG A COPY OF
THIS FILTHSTORM AT YOUR REMOTE
CONVENT/AMISH COLONY, YOU,
YOUNG SIR OR MADAM, COULD NOT
POSSIBLY BE HUMAN. CLEARLY, YOU
MUST BE SOME SORT OF MAGICAL
PURITY PIXIE SCULPTED OUT OF 100
PER CENT IVORY SOAP. SOMEWHERE,
IN A LAND OF FRESHLY DRIVEN SNOW,
YOU FLUT ABOUT ON CANDY FLOSS.
WINGS INNOCENTLY FROLICKING WITH
CHAMPAGNE HEDGEHOGS DRINKING
DONKEY PUNCH. (IN THIS CATEGORY:
LEAH COLLINS)

NOTHING A LITTLE PENICILLIN WON'T FIX (136-235):

YOUR MOM THINKS YOU'RE SWELL,
YOU'RE IMPECCABLY GROOMED,
YOU'VE BEEN KNOWN TO RESCUE

PUPPIES OUT OF BURNING TREES, BUT
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE YOU GET A
KICK OUT OF PUNCHING HOBOS IN
THE MIND. YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO
THE PALACE OF AWESOME. PICK UP A
JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER ON YOUR WAY
HOME FROM BIBLE STUDY AND YOU'LL
BE THERE BEFORE YOU CAN SQUEAL
"HANDJOB." (IN THIS CATEGORY: SHAWN
BENBOW, CATLIN CRAWSHAW, AND
JAKE TROUGHTON)

HEPATITIS B TO THE BAWESOME (236-399):

HERE. HAVE A TROPHY. YOU DESERVE
IT, CHAMP. WHILE THE REST OF
THESE SCHMUCKS WERE SITTING IN
CAMERON LIBRARY FANTASIZING ABOUT
HONEYMOONING IN RENO WITH MAT
BRECHTEL AND A FRESHLY STOLEN
ADRENAL GLAND, YOU WERE OUT
THERE LIVING THE DREAM. GOOD SHOW.
JUST BE CAREFUL TO SHOW A LITTLE

Pure-gineers: Leah
Collins, Joel Chury,
Shawn Benbow,
Candace Stevens,
Sarah Hansyk,
James Johnson,
Phil Head, Sherisse
Szymczak, Iris Tse,
Dan Kaszor, Ross
Moroz, Heather Adler,
and Chris Boutet



How many times in a 24-hour period (1 pts) **She-Boo**. You know, "She-Boo." Like that Cyndi Lauper song about masturbation.) Against your will? (2 pts) Before sleeping? (1 pt) While sleeping? (2 pts) After sleeping? (1 pt)

Have you ever been caught? (2 pts) Did you keep going? (3 pts)

Ever masturbated until you were sore? (3 pts) Until you couldn't walk? (5 pts) Until you couldn't see? (10 pts) Until you could—hallelujah—see again? (15 pts)

Ever masturbated in school? (5 pts) On a bus? (6 pts) In the basement of Cameron? (8 pts)

Ever had a fantasy about: A family member? (5 pts) Phoebe Cates? (3 pts) **Mist Brectel's dreamy eyes?** (3 pts) **Steve Smith's hot legs?** (4 pts)

Ever used toys to act out sexual fantasies? (2 pts) GI Joes? (2 pts) My Little Ponies? (3 pts) Lego? (4 pts)

Ever purchased porn for self-abuse purposes? (3 pts) **Maxim?** (2 pts) **Heavy Metal Magazine?** (1 pt) **National Geographic?** (-1 pt) **Zellers flyers?** (-2 pts) **Popular Mechanics?** (-10 pts)

Ever rented porn? (2 pts) For Ron Jeremy's acting skill? (-2 pts) As an educational tool? (2 pts)

Ever taken sex tips from **Cosmo?** (1 pt) **Seventeen?** (2 pts) **Judy Blume books?** (3 pts) **Bazooka Joe comics?** (4 pts) **Gateway opinion section?** (5 pts) Ever used a blow-up doll? (2 pts) Blow-up sheep? (3 pts) Converted a pool toy into a sex

toy? (4 pts) Converted a sex toy into a pool toy? (5 pts)

Have you ever used a sex toy? (2 pts) Ever made your own sex toy? (3 pts) Made your own sex toy out of a cucumber and a belt sander? (5 pts)

INTEMPERANCE

Ever eaten food that you dropped on the ground? (1 pt) That someone else dropped on the ground? (2 pts) That you happened to find in the street? (5 pts) As part of a government funded study on the ten second rule? (15 pts)

Are you rockin' the Atkins? (-10 pts)

Ever smoked a cigarette/cigar/pipe/etc? (1 pt) Ever smoked all three at once? (3 pts) Ever smoked found cigarette butts? (2 pts) Ever sold cigarette butts to hobos? (2 pts) **Gateway editors?** (3 pts)

Do you drink? (1 pt) Ever been drunk? (2 pts) How many years away from 18 were you when you first got drunk? (1 pts/year before 18, -1 for every year after) Ever been so drunk you threw up? (3 pts) Wet yourself? (4 pts) Shit yourself? (5 pts)

Ever had a hangover? (2 pts) Ever had a hangover that lasted over 24 hours? (4 pts) Ever been drunk for more than 24 hours? (4 pts) Ever drink to get rid of a hangover? (2 pts) Ever done heroin to get rid of a hangover? (6 pts) Ever drink to loosen up? (2 pts) Ever drink to loosen someone else up? (3 pts)

Do you dig Jesus Juice? (2 pts) Jesus Blood? (2 pts) Drinking it out of Coke cans with pre-pubescent? (50 pts)

Ever drink and drive? (8 pts) Ever drink and dial? (10 pts) Gone to work drunk or hungover? (3 pts) Gone to school drunk or hungover? (3 pts) Only go to school and work drunk or hungover? (5 pts)

Ever bought alcohol for underage kids? (2 pts) In exchange for a delivery fee? (3 pts) In exchange for sex? (10 pts) **Rogs?** (-5 pts)

Ever take a chem class for the free ethanol? (2 pts) To learn how to make homemade crack? (3 pts) To learn how to make homemade ecstasy? (3 pts) To get course credit? (-3 pts)

You've been high on: Pot (2 pts) Mushrooms (3 pts) Cocaine (5 pts) Heroin (5 pts) Ecstasy (4 pts) Glue (3 pts) Meth (4 pts) Injected Adrenaline (10 pts) Ether (5 pts) Life (-3 pts)

Ever been hooked on a feeling? (2 pts) High on believing? (2 pts)

Lied about it being your first time to get drugs for free? (2 pts) Do you own a pipe? (2 pts) Did you make your own? (3 pts) Out of a pop bottle? (2 pts) Out of your pet kitty's chest cavity? (10 pts) While it's still alive? (10 pts) Just to keep it from clawing the furniture? (20 pts)

Ever grown drugs? (4 pts) Ever sold drugs? (4 pts) Ever smuggled drugs? (6 pts) Across international borders? (8 pts)

In your ass? (10 pts) Ever taken someone else's medication? (3 pts) Ever abused a medication? (3 pts) Ever mixed drugs and alcohol? (3 pts) Ever played pharmacist? (4 pts)

Ever been to a rave? (2 pts) (post-1997, -2pts)

ROCK AND/OR ROLL

Ever been to a concert? (1 pt) Been backstage? (2 pts) In exchange for a little quality time with the roadies? (7 pts) Been in a mosh pit? (2pts) Experienced frottagge? (4 pts) Committed frottagge? (6 pts) Go to concerts just for the frottagge? (10 pts) Crowd surfed? (3 pts) While wearing a skirt? (6 pts) And nothing else? (10 pts)

Do you believe God gave rock and roll to you? (2 pts) Gave rock and roll to everyone? (2 pts)

Ever sit on a guitar amp just for the good vibrations? (3 pts) Was it turned to eleven? (1 pt) Ever put a microphone where it don't belong? (4 pts) Did it shock you? (3 pts) Did that make it awesome? (3 pts) Was the resulting noise sampled on a hip hop album? (25 pts)

Were you conceived at a rock concert? (2 pts) Ever make love at a rock concert? (3 pts) Ever make love to Dance Mix 93? (2 pts)

Ever go on tour with a band? (2 pts) Were you the merch girl? (6 pts) Futon-in-the-back-of-the-van girl? (20 pts)

A&E Editor Heather Adler? (-28 pts)

Ever been "with" the band? (7 pts) A Canadian band? (5 pts)

Was it Nickelback? (-5 pts) **Nickelback sucks?** (1 pt) **No, Nickelback does not suck?** (-1 pt)

Ever start a band just to get laid? (5 pts) An imaginary band? (3 pts) Was it the Metric System? (-20 pts)

Ever trashed a hotel room? (3 pts) Your apartment? (1 pt) Your best friend's apartment? (2 pts) A church? (10 pts)

Tattoos? (2 pts/tattoo) Piercings? (2 pts/hole) Scars? (2 pts/ scar, 5 pts/scar if it was the result of a drunken stab fight)

Ever dyed your hair a colour not intended by God? (2 pts) Ever dyed your public hair a colour not intended by God? (5 pts)

Dirty Dancing? (2 pts) With Jennifer Grey? (3 pts) Inside a sweaty gogo cage? (4 pts) While being paid to have sex? (10 pts) At RATT? (15 pts)

Is it your duty duty to shake that booty booty? (2 pts)

AND FINALLY

Have you ever flipped a tour bus—with your drink—then eat all of the fiery debris—for charity? (10 000 pts)



OPERATION (YOU KNOW, LIKE KICKING HOOKER-KILLING HOBBY) BEFORE END UP LIVING THE REST OF YOUR HEROUS DAYS IN A FULL BODY IDOLM LIKE THE DARKLORDS IN THE T CATEGORY. (IN THIS CATEGORY, IM ROZENHART, KRISTINE OWRAM, E BERRY, AND DAN KASZOR)

SI AIDS! AIDS! (400-HELL)

ROAD TO ETERNAL HELLFIRE SURE T HAVE BEEN FUN IN A WAY THAT Y HAPING MENTALLY CATARDED TS AND KILLING CRACK BABIES BE GOOD TIMES, GOOD TIMES, BUT V THAT YOU'VE MADE IT, THERE'S NOT CH LEFT TO DO BUT LOOK BACK ON R FORMER GLORY AND PERHAPS PRE THE PATHETIC MORTALS UND YOU TO ASPIRE TO YOUR REME LEVELS OF BADITUDE. GIVE REGARDS TO SATAN, DINKWALLETS, THIS CATEGORY: CHRIS BOUTET AND THER ADLER)



Photos: Shawn Benbow, Iris Tse, James Johnson, Phil Head, Nic Wiebe, Candace Stevens, Jesse Whitehead, Lisa Butler, and Cary Williams



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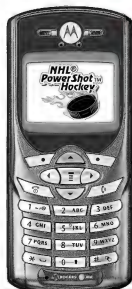
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EDMONTON

CENTRAL
10176 - 109 St.
426-2355

12302 Stony Plain Rd.
488-6622

Edmonton City Centre
10200 - 102 Ave.
421-4540

NORTH

Costco North
993-5188

12924 - 97 St.
473-2355

EAST

Capilano Mall
(outside entrance by Safeway)
450-6880

6558-28 Ave.
440-2812

6839 - 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)
465-5271

SOUTH

6031 - 103 St.
438-2355

9128 - 51 Ave.
438-5114

South Edmonton Common
485-9812

South Edmonton Common
(inside Superstore)
701-3355

Southgate Centre
434-5620

Costco South
909-4544

9261 - 34 Ave.
702-6001

Hub Mall
9004 - 112 St.
570-3068

WEST

West Edmonton Mall Phase II
(by skating rink)
413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III
(by London Drugs)
443-3022

10013 - 170 St.
408-8917

10608 - 170 St.
489-2255

Costco West
907-0330

LEUDIC
6104 - 50 St.
986-0986

SHERWOOD PARK
993 St. St.
417-2355

ST. ALBERT
Inglewood Town Centre
419-2355



EDMONTON

Kingsway Garden Mall
471-3807

Londonderry Mall
476-3256

Northgate Mall
475-2724

Bonnie Doon Mall
463-0864

Millwoods Town Centre
435-7777

SHERWOOD PARK
416-1775

ST. ALBERT
St. Albert Centre
418-1681

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SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts & Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what's happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

Crystal Plamondon
Horizon Stage
Saturday, 14 February

If you're looking to enjoy the romance of country twang this Valentine's day, you're in luck, as Crystal Plamondon is coming to the Edmonton area. Plamondon speaks English, French and Cree, and mixes her Acadian roots with classic country for a unique sound. With chart-topping hits in France and a stint as a television host, she has made her mark on the music scene, but when it comes down to it, she's still an Albertan at heart. Coming from Plamondon, Alberta—which is named for her great-grandfather—her eclectic music that is sure to please.

Jesus Christ Superstar
The Jubilee
Now Showing

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic rock opera about the death and life of Jesus Christ returns to Edmonton this week. Starting Eric Kunze as Jesus, JCSS is told from the perspective of Judas Iscariot (Lawrence Clayton) and features songs that have topped the American album charts three times, furthering the popularity of the show. Lawrence Clayton is an accomplished singer who has been in numerous shows across the world. Eric Kunze has starred on Broadway in numerous roles, including one of the leads in *Les Misérables*.

The Eye
Metro Cinema
Opens Friday, 20 February

The Eye is one of the most recent entries into the growing genre of Japanese horror, and although not as influential as the seminal *Ringu*, it has captivated audiences from around the world. The film tells the story of Wang Kar Mun, who went blind when she was two and, at 20, she undergoes an experimental operation to replace her corneas with those of a dead girl. She regains her sight, but begins see strange things with her new eyes. If you're in the mood for creepy goodness, this is the freak-out flick for you.

Blue/Orange
The Citadel Theatre
Now Showing

Highlighting issues of race, politics and the nature of madness, *Blue/Orange* has had great success in both London and New York. The story revolves around a young man confined in a mental health facility who claims to be the son of an African dictator and the play follows the boy in his wondrous tale. *Blue/Orange* will finish out its Edmonton run this weekend, so this is the last chance you have to see this controversial play.

DAN KASZOR
Production Editor

Bluegrass rebels defy their genre

The Clumsy Lovers
with Paul Bellows
Tuesday, 17 February
Sidetrack Café

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you see a band playing instruments like the fiddle, mandolin and banjo, terms like "pop," "punk," "reggae," and "ska" generally aren't among the first that come to mind. But these, along with just about every other musical genre you can think of, are frequently tossed around in the seemingly futile attempt to describe the diverse sound of the Clumsy Lovers.

"There's all sorts of words that come into play," says fiddler Andrea Lewis. "I've heard everything from 'eclectic speed-folk' to 'raging bluegrass Irish pop,' and I even saw 'banshee rock' once. It's hard to describe our sound in two or three words, and we can't seem to arrive at anything, so we let people come up with their own idea of what it is."

"A couple years back we played Wintergrass in Tacoma, which is fairly renowned in the bluegrass world, and we were the only band at load-in that had a drum kit. The way they were looking at us, we felt like we'd brought in a headless person or something."

ANDREA LEWIS

Essentially, the Vancouver-based quintet is a bluegrass band with drums, which is bizarre since drums simply don't exist in conventional bluegrass music. Lewis says the sight of the Lovers' percussion set has been enough to turn heads during the band's frequent performances at bluegrass festivals. "A couple years back we played Wintergrass in Tacoma, which is fairly renowned in the bluegrass world, and we were the only band at load-in that had a drum kit. The way they were looking at us, we felt like we'd brought in a headless person or something," he laughs.



THE CLUMSY LOVERS A young, Vancouver pop/punk/reggae/ska/folk/bluegrass band.

But while the Lovers sound is strange enough to guarantee they get noticed at such festivals, Lewis says it's also just familiar enough to allow them to win over the crowds. "The Wintergrass show went over really well; we had a great time and people really enjoyed it," he explains. "We have some traditional roots going on, but they're kind of going off in all sorts of different directions—popping through the pavement, breaking the rules. It's not the traditional format, but it's got bluegrass in it, and people who like bluegrass seem to like our music."

The Lovers recently signed with Vancouver's Network Records after touring independently for years, and their first album on the label, *After the Flood*, was released this Tuesday. The band had previously enjoyed some success on college radio, but Lewis admits that their style is making it difficult for Network as they try to promote the album to commercial stations. "We've found now, with Network promoting this album, that we are sort of caught between whether we'd do a pop or a roots sort of push," he notes. "I think the single 'Idenity' is something that could pass for the pop stations, but

then something like 'Amen' is getting more of a reaction from the Americana roots stations. I'm actually interested to see what happens, I'm not sure where they're going to find a place for it."

Some of the new album's tracks, including the title track, sound like they could easily find a place on country radio, but Lewis isn't excited about the possibility of her band's all-over-the-map sound being associated with that scene. "The new country stuff, I don't really have any interest in," he remarks. "It just sounds to me like it's the same fiddle player that's doing every CD that comes out of Nashville; it's the same licks, the same sound quality and everything."

Nonetheless, the Clumsy Lovers will likely appeal to fans of country music, not to mention fans of pop, punk, Celtic and blues; there's something for just about everyone in the Lovers' repertoire. It can be difficult to hold interest from such diverse audiences, but as fans at countless bluegrass, folk, and rock festivals can attest, the Lovers are just strange enough to pull it off.

CLUMSY Q&A
WITH ANDREA LEWIS

ON THE BAND'S ASSOCIATION WITH NETWORK

"Network's a pretty good machine and all sorts of stuff is just popping up all over the place. I bought a magazine the other day and was flipping through it, and there was an ad for our CD. I was like, 'Wow, they're doing stuff for us. This is good.'"

ON THE DIVERSE SOUND OF AFTER THE FLOOD

"Sometimes you hear some band's single and then you buy the album, and it's like 'What the ...?' You know, the rest of it's just something else, from another planet, and you're often just disappointed. Maybe people will do that for us. If they hear us on pop radio, they'll pick up the album and go, 'What? This is country music!' But we'll see."

ON BANDMATE JASON HOMEY

"He won the Western Canada Banjo Championship twice as a teenager. There wasn't a teenage category, so he was up there against professional players. When we brought him into the group, we'd try to teach him a few tunes and then say 'Hey, do you have something you want to show us?' just to keep it a bit balanced. He'd learn half a dozen songs, and I'd still be working on one that he tried to show me."

ON THE DIVERSE TASTES OF THE BAND

"It's funny, if you took the discs out of our individual discmans, you'd probably be a bit surprised that we can all get along with each other. I actually like to drive a lot because the person who drives gets to put what they want in the CD player, so I get to listen to what I want and hear everyone else complain that we have to hear Kate again."



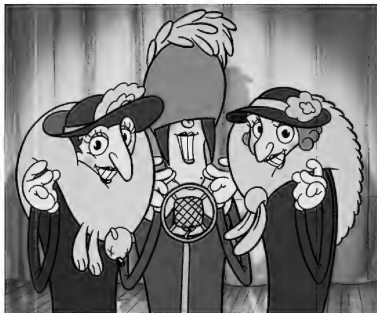
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Triplets a morbidly humorous animated masterpiece

The Triplets of Belleville

Directed By Sylvain Chomet
Sony Pictures Classics
www.belleville rendezvous.com
Now playing
Princess Theatre

JAKE TROUGHTON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Running for eighty virtually dialogue-free minutes, *The Triplets of Belleville* demands an attentive audience to follow its bizarre, often dark twists and the subtle humour of its animation. It's anything but an easy movie to watch; however, those who give it the attention required will be rewarded with a uniquely imaginative and charming experience.

The plot revolves around young Champion, a top cyclist competing in the Tour de France who has risen to the top of his game thanks to his grandmother's relentless training, which involved her using a vacuum cleaner and a manual lawnmower to relieve Champion's tense muscles at the end of his lengthy riding sessions.

The plot is paper-thin, but the story isn't what's important so much as how it's told, and in truth, a story any less ridiculous probably would have ruined the fantasy of the film. On the whole, *Triplets* plays like a bizarre hybrid of mob drama and *Looney Tunes*.

But when Champion and two other racers are kidnapped by the French Mafia to be used in a bizarre underground gambling operation, grandmother and a fat dog named Bruno follow their trail to Belleville—an over-the-top parody of 1960s New York complete with a morbidly obese Statue of Liberty holding a hamburger in place of her torch. They reach Belleville by stealing a pedicab and following the mob's massive liner across the ocean, in what incredibly turns out to be only the second mob feature chase in the film.

Once there, the 'toons are aided by the titular Triplets, a former Broadway

trio who sing the film's nonsensical, but extremely catchy, theme song using a fridge, a vacuum cleaner and a newspaper as instruments. The Triplets reside in a crime-ridden, skid-row apartment that is a far cry from the lavish lifestyle the group is explained to have had some 30 years earlier. Now, the group subsists on a diet of nothing but frogs that one of them catches with explosives. When Bruno is offered some of the resulting soup and discovers that one of the frogs has managed to survive, it is simultaneously one of the movie's funniest and most disturbing moments.

In times like that, or when one of the kidnapped cyclists is executed after falling from his bike, director French Sylvain Chomet displays a true talent for dark humour. The sole reaction to the cyclist's death involves the odds on a chalkboard being changed, and thanks to Chomet's subtly emotional animation, moments like that are somehow uncomfortably funny.

The plot in this film is paper-thin, but the story isn't what's important so much as how it's told, and in truth, a story any less ridiculous probably would have ruined the fantasy of the film. On the whole, *Triplets* plays like a bizarre hybrid of mob drama and *Looney Tunes*. The grandmother using her oversized boot to trip a car and send it off the road is clearly reminiscent of Bugs Bunny, yet fits the story just as well as the prostitutes who are conducting their business in the hallway of the Triplets' apartment.

Triplets is the first feature-length film by Chomet, and it is funny, creepy, silly, sad and wholly whimsical—sometimes all at once—and the contrast it contains is utterly intriguing. While the movie is strange enough that at times it's even a little bit confusing, it's the sort of confusion that breeds curiosity rather than disinterest. At one point, for instance, you begin to wonder where Bruno the fat dog has gone, but before long it's revealed that he's been put to use as a spare tire on a truck. Somehow, this is barely a surprise.

The entire film evokes this sort of offense between humour and morbidity, and because Chomet is able to make the disparate elements interesting rather than frustrating, the result is very much worthy of its Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature. *Triplets* is creepy, disturbing, uncomfortable—and a rare treat that's not to be missed.

THE GATEWAY IS HIRING!



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2004-2005 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2004 to 30 April 2005 and pays \$1475/mo* from mid-August to April. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2004/2005 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager (Don Iverson, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday 5 March 2004. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.

GENERAL STAFF MEETING

All current Gateway volunteers are asked to attend a General Staff Meeting where volunteer and editor reps for the Editor-in-Chief and Line Editor hiring committees will be selected. Those with three or more contributions to the Gateway in the last eight months are eligible both to run for, and vote on, these volunteer rep positions. Please be at the Gateway offices at 4:00 on Thursday the 26th of February or be square.

* Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.
** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/info/

THE GATEWAY

UNITY IN THE WORLD OF COFFEE

Part I

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50 euphemisms for genitalia

50 First Dates

Directed by Peter Segal
Starring Adam Sandler and
Drew Barrymore
Columbia Pictures
Now Showing

SARAH HANASYK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Director Peter Segal, who brought us such cinematic "masterpieces" as *Tommy Boy* and *Naked Gun 33 1/3*, has taken a step away from his past full of the tomfoolery of purely physical comedy, towards the promised land of slapstick gross-out and romantic comedy in his latest, *50 First Dates*.

The movie stars Adam Sandler, who plays marine veterinarian Henry Roth—a no-strings-attached master of the one-night stand to whom the tourist women of his home island Hawaii are easily obtainable sex toys. Excited about his dream voyage to the Arctic to study the underwater habits of walrus, he hastily sets sail, only to be immediately brought to shore via mast accident. Happening upon a café on the mainland, he catches the eye of Lucy Whitmore (Drew Barrymore) and is instantly smitten. After hours of conversation, Henry promises to meet her at the café the next morning for another breakfast, but when he does he finds that Lucy has no recollection of ever meeting him. Henry is soon informed that Lucy had been the victim of a car accident one year prior and has since lost all short-term memory of events after the accident, essentially living the same day over and over again.



NICE SHIRT Sandler plays a doofus with a heart of gold in *50 First Dates*.

Through a film that can best be described as what would happen if the Farrelly Brothers had written and directed *Mermento*, Segal uses the expected amount of base humor to appeal to the lowest common denominator, yet counterbalances his waning dignity with formulaic, dramatic components that serve to grab those itching for romance and sobriety.

Sandler returns to the same character that he knows best: the happy-go-lucky doofus with the heart of gold, who, though he has some obvious faults, remains lovable in the eyes of both the audience and the characters with whom he dares to show his sensitive side. Anyone who has seen *Punch-Drunk Love* knows that Sandler can become something more than this stereotype of himself, but he nonetheless pleases the audience with familiarity and saccharine charm, and Henry's ever-pressing desire to convince Lucy that he is the love of her life. Aside from the obvious psychological inaccuracies in Lucy's condition—and the fact that the obligatory

Rob Schneider role is about as funny as getting your eyelid snagged on a coat hook—there is still that element of seductiveness and expectation that lures in an audience with memories of Saturday Night Live's heyday years of the early '90s. Expectations may not be exceeded when faced with the knowledge that Adam Sandler will be filling your brain with the usual physical comedy, occasional musical assemblage and random psychotic outbursts, but, if nothing else, they are at least met.

If you were a 15-year-old boy, this movie would have been absolutely hilarious, but even those with a cynical and somewhat pretentious desire for quality will still be surprised with the occasional laugh on a level that only Happy Gilmore himself can produce. Though the characters may have been recycled, at least the plot had some semblance of creativity to counteract the presence of vomit within the first five minutes of the film and an overabundance of Hawaiian euphemisms for genitalia.

Flashes of fine-looking hoo-has don't make for satisfying cinema

The Dreamers

Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci
Starring Michael Pitt, Eva Green and
Louis Garrel
Fox Searchlight
www.the-dreamers.com
Opens Friday, 20 February
Garcia

DANKASZOR
Production Editor

When France was almost overthrown by Communists in 1968, the country was completely shaken, the government was restructured and France's people were split. Bernardo Bertolucci's latest film, *The Dreamers*, is set during this monumental unrest, but because it moves in too many directions at once the film isn't able to either capture the essence of the revolution or let the audience relate to the characters.

Dreamers is set against the backdrop of the social and political upheaval that was 1968 France. Matthew (Michael Pitt) is an American who has come to France to escape being drafted and, while living a meager existence out of a hotel room, he becomes a cinophile, spending all of his free time in the darkened halls of the movie theatre, absorbing every last frame of film. Eventually, the theatre is shut down by the government for being too radical and Matthew meets up with a pair of fraternal French twins, Theo and Eva (Eva Green and Louis Garrel) while protesting; they ask Matthew to stay in their plush Parisian apartment for the summer. This invitation leads to a game of sexual awakening, juxtaposed by the political strife of a population ready to explode.

If that plot sounds familiar, it



UPHEAVAL IS SEXY Nothing says lovin' like a little communist than revolution.

should—it's exactly the same as every late-night movie that Showcase has ever shown. Those Europeans love to juxtapose revolution with sexual awakening. If this movie had worked, then it wouldn't matter how played out the plot was; unfortunately, *Dreamers* is a series of hits and misses, only moderately fulfilling its purpose in the end.

Director Bertolucci develops three different focuses in the film: the relationships among the three main characters, the political unrest of France, and an often forgotten thread of Matthew's cinephile tendencies. The problem is that none of the different elements are developed far enough. The characters have interesting—if somewhat childish and stylized—problems with their sexual identities. Unfortunately, they aren't fleshed out enough for the audience to have anything but a passing attachment to their problems. Copious amounts of sex and nudity from the leads (the film is rated NC-17 for a reason) does help to cover up the undeveloped nature of their relationships, but exceedingly fine-looking young people flashing their hoo-has around

doesn't necessarily make for a satisfying cinematic experience.

The elements of revolution are similarly underdeveloped; the film shows a society teetering on the brink, ready to burst at the seams, but it doesn't give an impression on how that would feel, what it's like for a person to exist in a place where nothing is stable. Perhaps the scenes of people marching down the street and swinging Soviet flags would've had more impact for someone who lived through it, like Bertolucci did, but if that was the audience he was aiming for, then really, the film should have been in French and not in English.

The outside world only intermittently pokes its head inside the sexy little universe of the apartment, and this wouldn't have been a problem if the main storyline of the relationships had been developed, but it wasn't.

The film isn't all bad; the acting is mostly decent, the sex is titillating and some of the ideas are sound. But ultimately, *Dreamers* just tries to do too many things, and it doesn't get any of them right because of that.

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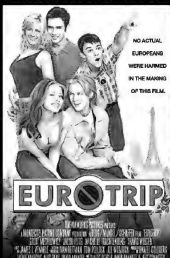
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FREE STUFF

THE GATEWAY WANTS TO SEND YOU TO SEE...



Scotty Thomas (Scott Mechlowicz) and his Berlin-based computer pen pal Mieke (Jessica Boehrs) have been writing each other for years, sharing every detail of their lives. When Mieke makes a cyber pass at Scotty, he completely freaks out, thinking that this guy he's known for years is coming on to him in Germany no less. Too bad the one detail Scotty doesn't seem to know is that, in Germany, Mieke is a girl's name. By the time Scotty figures out that Mieke is a girl, and a hot one at that, Mieke has cut off her email account and all contact with him. Thinking that this might be his one chance at true love—even though he's never actually met the girl—Scotty and his best friends, Cooper (Jacob Pitts) and the twins Jenny (Michelle Trachtenberg) and Jamie (Travis Wester), embark on a raucous trip across Europe headed for Berlin. The film opens in theatres Friday, 20 February, but we want you to see it early!

For your chance to score a double guest pass to a special screening of the *Eurotrip* on Wednesday, 12 February drop by the Gateway office any time Thursday after 1pm and tell the Arts editor what dirty thing you'd most like to do in Europe. This movie is subject to classification.



BOOM! Stablio opened for Canadian Coldplay (aka Pilate) at the Plant Saturday.

COSANNA PRESTON

Diverse collection of 'toons offers something for everyone

The Animation Show

Featuring animation by Tim Burton, Mike Judge, Don Hertzfeldt and others
www.animationshow.com
Opens Friday, 13 February
Metro Cinema

RICK HUNTER

Arts & Entertainment Writer

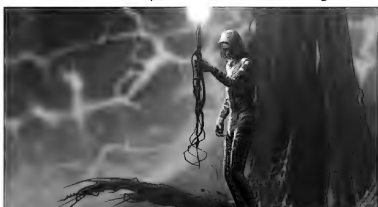
Short Animation is a tough sell for North American producers: it's poorly understood and rarely finds a theatrical audience. But in an attempt to show everyone what they're missing, Mike Judge (*King of the Hill*, *Office Space*) and Academy Award-Nominated animator Don Hertzfeldt have created a feature-length collection of their favorite animation from around the world. The result is an eclectic, but incredibly amazing compilation of shorts that will have you rolling in the aisles in laughter then staring in awe at the emotion animation can convey in the span of a few moments.

Eclectic and weird is the best way to describe *The Animation Show*; some of the shorts are hilarious, some are meditative, and some of them make David Lynch look a guest director on *The Red Green Show* with their combination of peculiar premises and slapstick comedy. The shorts make use of nearly every animation method going: claymation, stick figures, and beautiful computer animation are all showcased in the compilation. Six of the animators have been nominated for Academy Awards in the past, and their work spans eight different countries, so although each plicated package comes in a very different style, they are all exceptionally well done.

Chances are you're an animation nut, you've already seen some of these gems. There's the popular Canadian short *Strange Invaders*, detailing the adventures of a couple who adopt an alien kid, and Tim Burton's 1982 *Vincent*, in which a young boy is driven insane by his fascination with becoming Vincent Price. But some of the titles are more elusive: *Mars and Beyond* is a 1957 science fiction proj-



SOMEWHERE OUT THERE The parents of an alien child star in *Strange Invaders*.



CREEPLY This gothic little fellow is featured in Tomek Baginski's *The Cathedral*.

ect about space exploration by Ward Kimball. Although it ends up resembling a mushroom trip in this age, it is credited for gaining large amounts of public support in the American Space Program by raising awareness and interest in the ideas of space travel.

What makes this collection as a whole so compelling is the craftsmanship and the brilliance of the animation; each project is completely different from the one before it, yet each one resonates with its own intensity; the sheer grandeur and stunning visual effects of Tomek Baginski's *The Cathedral* makes you feel like you're experiencing the pinnacle of computer animation, while Don Hertzfeldt's *Billy's Balloon* features children being savagely beaten by their balloons in a hilariously twisted manner.

Unfortunately, the congruency of *The Animation Show* is sometimes

lost; the projects are so different from each other that it's draining to keep up with the constant juxtapositioning of comedy and contemplation. For example, *The Rocks* is a sombre German film about two stones that sit on a hilltop and watch the rise and fall of mankind. Everything around them happens in fast-forward, and by the end, you're left feeling insignificant—but then moments later, you're lying on the floor, struggling to breathe because you're laughing so hard at a penis-shaped piece of clay screaming in tongues.

Still, whether you worship at the cartoon temple or just want to see something a little different, *The Animation Show* is not to be missed. There are so many different styles crammed into such a short amount of time, you're bound to find something you'll love.

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MADAM Fair lady, would you care to dance with me, but a humble, ill-dressed cowboy or something?

Floss engrossing, but hampered by distracting production

Mill on the Floss

Directed by Jan Selman
Starring Anne-Marie Felicitas,
Loriana Lombardo, Shantelle Landry,
Jason Carnew and Ryl Alexander
Timms Center for the Arts
Now showing

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Watching any kind of low-budget theatre like that produced by local company Studio Theatre can be about as frustrating as trying to tweeze your nose hair with ice tongs. The effort—and, in most cases, the talent—is definitely apparent, but all too often a few bad choices will hamper what could be an otherwise masterful execution. Unfortunately, Studio Theatre's latest play, an adaptation of George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss*, is no exception.

The play follows the life of Maggie Talliver, the imaginative daughter of a mill worker who aspires beyond her lot as a simple Victorian lady. After her father is bankrupted and suffers a stroke, Maggie begins to gradually subdue her own desires to better serve the family. The suppression of her desires eventually becomes so complete that she refuses to act on her feelings at all and resigns herself to the life of a misunderstood spinster.

One of the most unique and well-played aspects of this play is the division of Maggie into three separate characters. The first, the young and rambunctious girl filled with vigour and inventiveness, is expertly played by Anne-Marie Felicitas, who exudes both the impetuosity required

for her more childlike parts and the macabre quality needed to show the young Maggie's slowly growing inner demons. The second Maggie represents the character's transition from exuberant youth to resigned lady and is equally well played with understated reservation by Loriana Lombardo. The third Maggie is the fully resigned character, rarely letting her feelings show and never allowing them to dictate her actions, and is the most weakly realized of the three incarnations, though still played commendably by Shantelle Landry.

The supporting actors, especially Jason Carnew as a disfigured suitor for Maggie, are all more than talented enough to make their characters come alive and draw you into the story, but the cast is hampered throughout by some poor technical choices.

The supporting actors, especially Jason Carnew as a disfigured suitor for Maggie, are all more than talented enough to make their characters come alive and draw you into the story, but the cast is hampered throughout by some poor technical choices. Some of these are minor details that serve

only to briefly interrupt the viewer's engagement in the play—such as the slight interruptions to attach a character to a harness to be hoisted into the air—but most seriously impact the enjoyment of the play.

The use of accents is another factor that gravely impacts the success of this play: while all the characters manage to maintain the same accent throughout the play, the particular type of accent varies from person to person, which makes it very distracting. Some are pure English, others have hints of Irish, and still others have noticeable twangs of the American south. This ineffective divergence is most likely provided so the audience can always hear the actors, because in this production the overbearing musical score, which, while usually used to subtly enhance mood, imposes on the play and even serves to completely drown out the actors and further disengage the audience.

That aside, by far the biggest problem is the final act: everything that the performance does right in the first two acts is almost entirely abandoned after the intermission. The story, which was brisk and satisfying before, slows to a painful crawl and features several twists that aren't entirely explained nor made fully believable. The finale, which should be the climax, is so drawn out and obvious that it is almost painful to sit through.

The ending aside, overall *The Mill on the Floss* is an engrossing play that is well-acted but ultimately hampered by some very poor staging decisions. When all is said and done, you can't help but feel disappointed at what could have been.



RYAN ADAMS
Rock N Roll
Universal
www.ryan-adams.com

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

Straight from the nobody-wanted-this files comes Ryan Adams' latest, unfortunate release *Rock N Roll*. After listening to this rushed piece of douche-baggery one can't help but feel completely insulted.

Rumored to have taken two weeks to complete, this album seemed in poorly ripping off the Smiths on "Anybody wanna take me home," and U2 on "So Alive."

When Adams actually does get around to crafting songs that are in his own style, the songwriting is bad—Gorin Rossdale bad. And all the while, it's hard to take him seriously when he starts forcing explosives into his songs like Adams does on "Wish You Were Here," with the uninspired line "It's all a bunch of shit it's totally fucked/I'm totally fucked up."

The once multi-talented songwriter, whose previous endeavour *Heart Breaker* far outdoes his latest monstrosity, also tries to be hip to the drug culture with distal new lyrics like, "If I could have my way we'd take some drugs so I could smile." You do that, Ryan—maybe drugs would help us smile while listening to your audio brain farts and uninspired incursions.

The rockabilly sound and over-hyped act has gotten old and Adams' image has grown stale. Since he burst on the scene, Adams has beat it over our heads that he's so rock 'n' roll that he doesn't give a fuck, but if that were really the case, he wouldn't have to keep reminding us. Calling this album *Rock N Roll* isn't convincing.

If this is any indication of what's left for us to expect from this one-album wonder, then we can only hope he'll call it a career soon. It's bad enough that he's dating actress Parker Posey—and despite any jealousy I had when I learned this fact, I still have ripped this album a new asshole—but to rub our noses in it by writing songs titled "Note to self: Don't Die," is uncalled for. As former fans of your work will tell you, we're getting the message Mr. Adams, and all we can say in our now-deserted response is: "fuck you too."

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One thing about the school of experience is that it will repeat the lesson if you flunk the first time.
Author Unknown



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THE PEP RALLY

Volleyball

Volleyball has always been renowned as the sport of poets, and as noted American poet Robert Frost once said, "The **Pandas** (16-2) will face the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds this weekend. They'll play in the Main Gym Friday at 6:30pm and again Saturday at 8pm, as the wind blows gently through the barren wood, over the trees dusted with frost." Poetic guy, that Robert Frost. Poetic and surprisingly prophetic.

Sadly, very few poets have ever said anything regarding male volleyball. However, the finest British prime minister of all time, Pitt the Elder, once said of his rival, Lord Palmerston, "The **Bears** (14-4) also play the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend, though their games are at 8pm Friday and 6:30pm Saturday in the Main Gym. Furthermore, Wade Boggs was the greatest third baseman that ever lived." It's amazing how all these famous people spoke about volleyball. And also baseball. How odd.

Hockey

Famous American poets and obscure British political figures sure don't talk about hockey, though, Bob Stauffer does. He talks about hockey in a way that makes people clutch their naughty bits with glee. And he'll get a chance to do it this weekend, as the **Bears** (22-2) play a home-and-home with the University of Calgary Dinos. Friday's game takes place in our humble abode, Clare Drake Arena, at 7:30pm, then you can listen to Bobby and grab yourself when they head down to Calgary for the return match Saturday at 7pm. Tune into **CSR FM88** for all the grabby goodness.

Basketball

While we're on the subject of quotes, House of Pain once said "Jump Around!" Which is interesting, because basketball players also tend to jump a lot. Basketball players like the **Bears** (13-5). They jump to shoot, jump to block, jump over sharks. A lot of jumping. This weekend, they'll be jumping, and winning, down in Lethbridge against the Porphinghorns. They'll jump in at 8:15pm Friday and jump out at 8:15pm Saturday. Jump, jump, jump, ad nauseum.

Hey, guess what, the **Pandas** (5-13) also play Lethbridge this weekend. Except at 6:30pm both days. I'm running out of room, so that's all you get, you crazy Pandas. Win more, you'll get more. Ha!

Track and/or Field

The runners, jumpers and throwers of the Track and Field, um, caste, are kicking around the University for the really obviously named High Performance Meet. Seriously. High Performance? Why don't you call it the "We Run Fast" Meet. Or the "Not Crappy" Meet. Or, you could call it the "Choice Cut of" Meet. A-Ha! Get it? It's a pun. Meet and meet! I'm hilarious. Anyway, it happens in the Butterdome. Hal There's a "Meet" in the "Butter" dome. Food!

Wrestling

The Canada West championships are coming on top this weekend, but next. That is about all I know, since Joel refuses to tell me anything, but demands I put it in here. Anyway, go **Bears** and **Pandas**. Woot

Sports Editor/Joel Chury: In Conversation

Joel: You're missing the point! Giving the goatenders smaller pads won't solve the scoring issues in the NHL! There are still the restrictive defensive systems that are choking the skill out of our most talented players! They can't score if they can't shoot!
Me: No, Joel, I said, "When and where are the Canada West wrestling championships?"
Joel: I just rented the first season of *The Office*; it's hilarious! I love British people!
Me: sighs You'd better not make me change this.

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Also loves British people

First place a possibility for volleyball Pandas

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

With only two games remaining in the regular season, the second-place Pandas volleyball team will have one last opportunity to overtake the first-place Calgary Dinos when they take on the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend. With home-court advantage through the playoffs on the line, head coach Laurie Eisler and her squad look forward to the challenge.

"Since we had our weekend with Calgary, we kind of knew this was coming, so we needed to win two against Saskatchewan, two against Trinity Western, two against Winnipeg, and now two against UBC," said Eisler. "So I think we've been in [must-win] mode for a while, which just gets us another step closer to that really exciting part of the game (playoffs)."

The weekend series works as great preparation for the upcoming playoff period as both UBC and Alberta have identical win-loss records (16-2). Both teams have the opportunity to pass Calgary, who finished their regular season last week with a 17-3 record and sit idly this weekend. Eisler is happy about the schedule ending with worthy competition. "You want to be going into playoffs feeling like you've been challenged, playing the top teams, and I think last weekend was a huge challenge with Winnipeg, and UBC split their weekend with Winnipeg when they last played, so I think they're at the same level," she said.

Though the Pandas have swept every weekend series since splitting with Calgary three weeks ago, they've had their last three matches go to a full five sets, thus they've become acquainted with close calls. This season's kills leader, left side Tawana Wardlaw, believes the team's familiarity with do-or-die situations can only benefit her team. "[Five-set matches] are good for mental toughness. We'll know that we've been in those situations before, we'll know that we've pulled through them, and we'll have already experienced all the different types of feelings that go along with five-set matches," said Wardlaw.

Before the team had three five-set matches in a



LAST LINE OF DEFENCE Pandas right side Pamela Parker digs this ball as teammates look on.

row, they had swept their previous three matches in three sets. The stinginess on the scoresheet is the reason why the Pandas are ranked higher than UBC, who have the same match record but a worse games-won-versus-lost record. But ultimately, if the Pandas win both matches this weekend, they won't have to worry about games-won differential in their bid to secure home-court advantage through the playoffs.

The idea of playing out the rest of their games

going into the CIS championships in Saskatoon appealed to Eisler. "It would be very nice to be able to finish out the season playing at home as much as possible. We love playing here, we love having our fans here, and we love the cozy confines of the Main Gym," said the smiling head coach.

The series begins Friday night at 6:30pm and concludes Saturday evening at 8pm in the coziness of the Main Gym.

Volleyball Bears to close season at home against UBC

RYAN OHASHI
Sports Writer

For the Bears volleyball team, the ball is quite literally in their court as another must-win weekend approaches. Coming off a two-match sweep (3-0, 3-0) of the fifth-ranked University

of Winnipeg Wesmen at home this past weekend, the first-ranked Bears will look to continue their winning ways against the sixth-ranked UBC Thunderbirds in the final weekend of the regular season.

The last time these two teams faced was a mere two weeks ago, as UBC (7-11) managed to split

the weekend series in their own gym. Now the Bears (14-4) look to hammer down their claim to the number one ranking over their former interim head coach Richard Schick, who now coaches for UBC.

"We kinda got those jitters out a week and a half ago, playing against the former coach," said Bears veteran middle Leo Carroll, who played under Schick during his time as head coach of the Bears. "It's gonna be fun; it was really interesting [last time] to see Rich on the other side of the net, wearing the wrong colors, but it was good to see him and it'll be a good weekend."

Alberta co-captain Carroll is currently second in blocks in Canada West (1.31 per game) and seems confident that the team is prepared for both the playoffs and UBC after splitting the last series. "The loss that weekend [at UBC] made us look over a few things about preparation and how to finish and mentally close out a game," Carroll said. "This past weekend at home it felt like we pulled together, coming out strong against Winnipeg, so we're all getting that feeling like it's getting pretty close to that time; with only four weekends left in the season, it's not a long time."

The two-game sweep of the Wesmen, combined with the Manitoba Bison's split of their past weekend matches in Saskatchewan, leaves Alberta alone atop the standings with a one point lead over arch-rival Manitoba. Thus, a sweep of this weekend's matches at home in the Main Gym would guarantee the Bears first place in Canada West and maintain their national number one ranking.

These next big steps for the Bears on the road to the national title take place Friday 8pm and Saturday 6:30pm in the Main Gym.



YOU GOT SERVED Bears outside hitter Nicholas Cundy returning an opponent's serve.

LEANNE FONG



DOOR CRASHERS Golden Bears attempt to score in the Dinos crowded crease.

FILE PHOTO: SHAWN BENBOW

Home-and-home series chance for Bears to extend dominance over the Dinos

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

The Golden Bears hockey team is hoping that a near miss last week against UBC will provide a jolt as they take their undefeated record into a home-and-home series against the rival Calgary Dinos this weekend.

After recording just the second tie of their near-perfect season (22-0-2) last weekend in Regina, Bears head coach Rob Daum suggested that the experience may benefit the mindset of his first-place team as the playoffs approach.

"I think it was a wake-up call for us," he said. "Sometimes it needs to be reinforced that you have to do certain things well against everybody to be successful, and when you have a point taken away from you, that reinforces those things."

The tie against the Thunderbirds last Saturday, which followed a 7-1 Alberta victory the night before, came despite the Bears outshooting UBC 53-29. But in the face of a hot goaltender, Daum's team couldn't put the T-Birds away, something that he plans to address in time for this weekend's series.

"We didn't finish our chances," he said. "We didn't put them away, and they took advantage of that. This weekend, we'll have to finish our chances to be successful."

In addition to their 31-0-2 overall record this season, the first-ranked Bears are on a 35-game unbeaten streak (31-0-4) against Calgary, dating back just over five years to 5 February, 1999. The streak is something of a mystery, as the Dinos are a very strong team—currently in second place in the conference (14-8-2) and

ranked ninth in the nation.

While Alberta whipped the Dinos 5-0 and 6-0 when they played last month, Daum admits that the Bears' record against Calgary doesn't reflect the relative skill differential of the two teams involved.

"The majority of the games have been pretty close," he said. "The last two weren't, but that was an anomaly. It'll be a battle, no question. We don't expect anything less from them."

He felt that the Bears' recent success against Calgary could be attributed simply to being well prepared for the games, and argued that if the streak were going to affect his players' preparation, there would've been signs of it earlier.

"The reason we've had success against them is that we've played hard and well against them, and when you do that for 35 games, you know your preparation is there," he said. "I don't see any reason why that would change, because where do you get overconfident? After 16 games, 25 games?"

The Bears' powerplay was a key factor the last time the teams met, and Daum expects that it will be again in this weekend's series.

"Our team discipline is a key for us," he said. "Our special teams have to be strong, we have to generate offence on the power play and not give them opportunities. Both teams have very good

goaltending, so you're going to have to work hard to get your goals." Expect the emotion of the Battle of Alberta to be on full display on the ice this weekend. The teams will face off Friday at 7:30pm at Clare Drake Arena before heading to Calgary to conclude the series on Saturday.



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUS

WRESTLING Alberta hosts the Canada West Finals 20-21 February in the Butterdome.



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Track team prepares for High Performance Meet

Butterdome the site for the second Alberta-hosted tournament of the year

MIKOLAJ MOSS
Sports Writer

In search of a display of athletic prowess? Looking to see some fast runners and people propelling themselves into the air with long poles? Then look no further than the Butterdome this weekend, where the Bears and Pandas will be hosting their second tournament of the semester, the High Performance Meet. Used as preparation for the Canada West Championships, the event will showcase some of the best varsity and independent athletes in the country.

At the last Butterdome meet three weeks ago, sprinter Antoine Bousombo came close to the U of A's sprint record in the 60m dash with a time of 6.86 seconds, finishing second in the race to Olympic gold medalist Robert Esmie. "For me, it's better to get to the CIS championship standard, before the Canada West finals begin. That just makes you relax the rest of the time." Bousombo ranks first in the CIS in the 60m and the 300m sprints.

Because so little is known about these athletes, the support in the stands in the last event equalled the number of volunteers and photographers on the field. "When you're not winning national titles, people ask, 'Who are you? Are you worth my time?'" said runner Carrah Buoma. "How do you get people excited? In Edmonton, and Canada in general, we never have track meets on TV, so people never see it and they don't get excited about it. It's really a media thing. If it was announced more, people may be interested in watching."

This weekend is the last chance



FILE PHOTO: WILF CHEN

X-TREME HIGH JUMPING A Panda pole vaulter at last month's track meet.

of the year to see Bears and Pandas track and field action. For those who missed the opportunity three weeks ago, they may get another chance to see Robert Esmie this weekend, as the

Canadian team member is rumoured to be at this event also. Competition runs on Saturday and Sunday in the Butterdome beginning at noon each day and running into the evening.

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Point-counterpoint: Did Cherry go too far?

Big deal, let's move on already



KRISTINE
OVRAM

Point

We already know that Don Cherry is an asshole. It's his persona. Without saying derogatory things on *Hockey Night in Canada*, making terrible compilation CDs and talking far too loudly, he would be nothing.

Knowing this, no one should've been offended when he called hockey players who wear visors "sucks" and then proceeded to say that "most of the people who wear them are Europeans or French guys." But for some reason, people were. So offended, in fact, that the CBC decided to put his broadcasts on a seven-second delay in order to avoid such debates in the future.

So big deal if Cherry said French hockey players wear visors more often than English-speaking players (which, by the way, a Winnipeg lawyer just proved to be factually correct). This is not even close to the level of offensiveness a statement should contain before the broadcast is put on a seven-second delay.

If Cherry had said that French hockey players should all be sterilized, for example, then by all means, go ahead and censor him. But he made a factual statement and then said that the visor wearers are "sucks." This statement is akin to saying that people who like jackfruit are gross. In other words, it was a statement of opinion on a topic we should probably care very little about.

And now, to top this all off, Cherry has probably ruined his chances of ever getting off a seven-second delay by admitting to Mike Bullard he "might be discriminatory." Well! God forbid we have a self-proclaimed discriminator on Coach's Corner! Kind of like how we have a guy who was convicted of vehicular manslaughter coaching the Oilers.

But I digress. The point is that Canadians tend to get reactionary when issues of French-English relations arise, and while there are obviously problems that still need to be dealt with, having a sense of humour sometimes ensures the serious problems are the ones that get dealt with first.

Why does this man still have a job?



JOEL
CHURY

Counterpoint

Oh, Kristine. So young. Why must you be so naïve? For some reason I don't think you've sat through as many clapper Don tirades as I've been forced to endure whilst waiting for the Leafs game to conclude. Though you mean well in defending ol' man Grapes, the fact of the matter is he shouldn't have a job anymore. The shark has been jumped, and this Archie Bunker routine of his is getting old.

Seriously, we can't just sit and laugh at him anymore. His over-the-top remarks are starting to make us look bad. In the Republican-led US, right wing mouthpiece Rush Limbaugh was fired for making racial comments on the air of an ESPN football halftime report. Yet here in Canada, where we like to believe we're void of bigotry, we've got a man spewing his stereotypical views of non-Anglophone players in the NHL on national TV. This man works for the CBC, which means our government signs his cheques to hash out this garbage.

Two summers ago, Grapes' counterpart Ron MacLean was almost let go due to the belief that the CBC couldn't afford both talents. To think that somehow Ron was the fat to trim, while Don Cherry reigned as one of the most recognized people in Canada, a cultural icon if you will—who started out as an interesting soapbox rantier but then slowly devolved into the poster child for senility we have today.

But now his comments have found their way over the most liberal boundaries of good taste, and his views shouldn't be showcased on a media outlet owned by taxpayers. The CBC has already censored the comments that caused the controversy on their website. It's too bad that the CBC didn't have the foresight to start tape-delaying his segments earlier so that they could have the time to edit out his preposterous tirades when they went too far. I can assure you that if this were done, he'd have slowly gotten himself edited off the program years ago.

The question here is not whether Grapes should be fired, it's why wasn't he fired five years ago?

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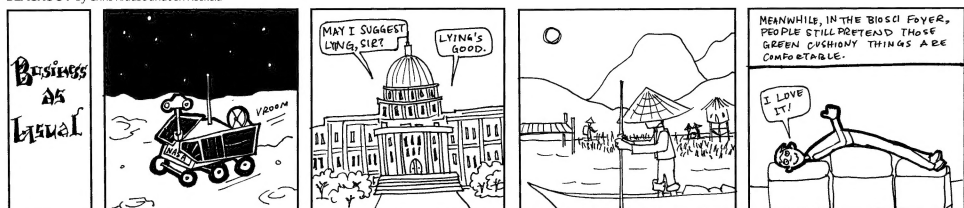
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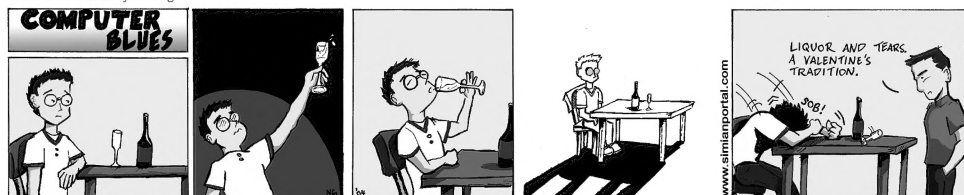
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THREE LINES FOR A TONNIE

Muah ha ha ha ha! Off To Mexico on Saturday for 8 glorious days of fun and, most importantly, sun. Have fun here suckas!! -M

To Lettuce, From Ham. Why do you always have to be with people? Happy Birthday. Happy Birthday Jaclyn! Here's to more good times and another year of Mach 3 speeds!!

Happy Valentines Day, Morgan! I love you! Diane.

Who's excited for the road trip? Seven Sisters don't Seattle, watch out! Fun bus pulls out at 9am, which's buying the first round of coffee?

Hey MDG, have a great time enjoying the sun in Florida! Please don't forget my Mickey Mouse ears!! Happy Feb 14th too!

Happy Valentines Day S.C.I. Love you, C.O. Much love going out to the SUB information Desk! You know who you are, but just because it's nice to see your name in print - Lori, Julius, Tyler, Maria, Erin and April.

Hi Mom and Boy-O. Isn't it nice to see your name in print? Now you really ARE the most popular girl in school. Here's our next Prom Queen! -Princess M

Did you see the last episode of Smallville? There will be a discussion group led by the U of A's foremost expert (Poo!) every Friday 12-2pm at the telephones between Rutherford Library and HUB. See you there.

I heart my girlfriend's chest. -B-Co

Mad shout-outs to the Information Services Office Staff. The office is off the hizzle - answering phones, approving posters, eating popcorn... I love this job. -M

Helpo you fantastically attractive Information Services staff! Hope like people at the info desks in C2B, HUB and SUB - yeah you! Messages will be coming for you soon. I can't promise that they'll be good or even nice, but

I will guarantee laughs for life!

Muryelle Smells Muryelle Smells Muryelle Smells! She smells like poop and garlic! Her new name's 'MURSMELLS!!!' hahahahaha "push! Loser!"

I gotta joke I gotta joke I gotta joke! What's red and looks like a BUCKET? ... A RED BUCKET!! HAHAHAHAHAHA!! "push!"

Zach Zach, Egypt, Egypt, Pharaoh Pharaoh! The Mummy The Mummy. Brendan Fraser Brendan Fraser.

"What's up with all the windows with the one window... BREAD!!!" The Boss. Iza, can you always be my Valentine?—Your LoverboyS3 I like your boobies.

A Conversation Between the illustrious Mike Winters and "Sexy" Dave Berry about the current state of the Ollers from the Gateway Blog. www.gateway.uaberta.ca/etherheredistatic.

Yeah, everyone's on about MacT getting fired, but the heat should be on Lowe for general all-round inactivity. And this "small market" concern is real, but overinflated. Minnesota almost went all the way, while Nashville and Calgary are currently within playoff cut line. These are teams with lower salaries than ours! No more excuses! Trade for Gonchar now! Posted by Mikey W.

Not that I want to disagree with the illustrious Mr. Winters, but I still think the problem is primarily Mac T. Sure, Lowe got rapped on the Comrie trade, but no worse than Calgary got rapped with Marc Savard. And the fact that Calgary and Minnesota have lower payrolls but better results also, in my mind anyway, points to a coaching problem. I mean, really, Calgary has Daryl Sutter (as you'll recall, last year before they hired him, the Flames both blew and sucked) and Minnesota has Jacques Lemaire. Compare those two with the helmetless wonder.

Lowe has a tendency to sit on his thumb for too long. I'll agree, but he has done some good things, such as acquiring Brewer, who is finally coming back into form, and drafting Hemsky. I say change the coach first, and I've still said next year, then it's time to send Lowe to the place where all old Ollers go once they lose their talent: the New York Rangers.

Posted by Seoy

At sports talk! For more juicy conversations about hockey, flip to page 25 for a discussion between Sports Editor Joey Chury and News Editor Kristine Ovrham about Don Cherry.



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